Oklahoma Chess Monthly

NOVEMBER 2016

Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma

OCM

Frank K. Berry

In This Issue:

• Memories of Frank Berry
• Steve Wharry
• Timur Gareyev Blindfold
• Pioneer Chess League
• Istvan's Chess Diversions
• Plus News Bites, G.O.T.M., Puzzles, Recent Games, Top 25 List, and more.

Premiering the New "OCM"

Our New Publication to Promote and Conserve the Sport of Chess in Oklahoma and the Surrounding Region

This publication is the first edition of the successor to the late Frank K. Berry's long-running Oklahoma Chess Quarterly (OCQ). The format and the look are different, but the mission is the same: to cover and conserve for the future the traditions of quality tournament chess in Oklahoma — in an entertaining and educational way.

Unlike most state chess publications, the Quarterly was more than just a place to give summaries of who won a tournament and some annotated games. Frank wanted to preserve the details of our chess activities, like a historian would. He believed in publishing the tournament crosstables for others to view in the future, and in researching and reviving long-forgotten stories from our chess past, stories which are surprisingly numerous in the Sooner State and surrounding areas.

OCF
OKLAHOMA CHESS FOUNDATION

"Oklahoma's Traditional Chess Bulletin Covering Oklahoma Chess on a Regular Schedule Since 1982"

http://ocfchess.org
Oklahoma Chess Foundation
Register Online for Free

Editor: Tom Braunlich

Published the 1st of each month.

Send story submissions, tournament reports or announcements etc., to the editor by the 15th of the previous month.

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What to Expect
We will be carrying on that tradition. We will have feature articles and fun stories, plus stuff of immediate interest to players (full tourney reports, annotated games, top rating lists, monthly puzzles, etc.) We will have several columnists and guest writers, and I invite you to submit story ideas or chess news information to me.

The New Format —
Why a Monthly Online?
Frank's traditional printed news bulletin format was terrific, but for those of us wanting to carry on this tradition following his untimely passing that format had a number of problems. First of all, it was time-consuming to produce. Each issue required meticulous editing, working with a printer, and maintaining an up-to-date address list of players. Frank himself put the address labels on every issue. He had the time for that, unlike the rest of us!

The online format also allows us to take advantage of the Internet's capabilities. For example, some of the games will be playable online. Many of the articles can have embedded hyperlinks you can click on for more information. Best of all, it is much easier and cheaper to edit and publish. No cumbersome address lists are needed. Players simply register to be an OCF member and access the downloads.

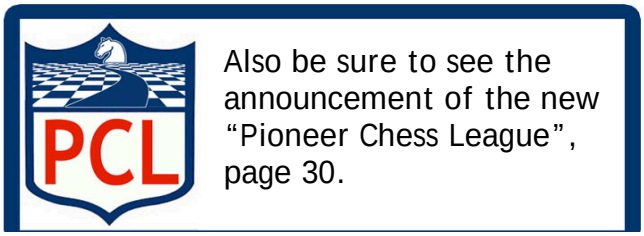
Missing the printed format? Some people like to have a printed copy for their collection. We plan to offer that as well in the form of an annual printed edition that you can order. Now instead of four separate issues to keep track of (I never was able to find an efficient way to store all of mine), you'll be able to buy an annual version of all 12 issues bound just like a book that fits easily on the shelf. This is done through the magic of on-demand printing. When we are ready to do that, an announcement will be made here and you'll be able to order one for yourself just like ordering a book from Amazon. Several such annuals will be made for the OCF archives and for a couple of libraries that stock the OCQs in their collections.

You Can Participate
Although this format is more efficient, that doesn't mean it is easy to edit. Putting together any publication like this is a challenge, and one thing that can help us keep it vibrant is participation from you. Have an idea for an article? Contact me. Have an upcoming tournament you want us to help promote? Send us the info. Know of anything going on in Oklahoma chess that others would be interested in, or a recent story published in a local newspaper? Send me the link.

The Okie Database
Closely related to the OCM is FKB's other long-running production, the Okie Chess Database. It is a collection he developed of games from Oklahoma's chess history—many of which he researched himself—dating back 100 years. Over the last 15 years he steadily added to this database as many "Okie" games as he could get his hands on, pestering all of us to send them in whenever we had a tournament.

This is another tradition we are continuing. At the OCF website where you downloaded this OCM you can also download the Okie Database. It is available in ChessBase format (the preferred format, requiring you to have the ChessBase program) or in standard PGN format, which can be viewed with ChessBase Light or any of the many free PGN game viewers available on the Internet.

We also need help keeping the Okie Database current. Whenever you have a tournament, I'm going to pester you (like Frank always did) to enter the games and



Also be sure to see the announcement of the new "Pioneer Chess League", page 30.

email them to me, or at least provide me with the handwritten (legible!) scoresheet copies. Also, if you play a tournament game out of state in a big tournament, please send that in as well. If you have a good game, why not annotate them as you send them in? It may be used in the OCM.

The "OCM" — First Day of Each Month

This monthly publication is a big undertaking. As the editor, I enjoy it, but my time is not unlimited. I will try to hit that deadline every month, and with your help we can have a fun publication to which we can all look forward. So check our website when you turn the calendar page over, and we will see you here!

Frank Berry at the RRSO. (Photo: Rebecca Rutledge)

More Memories of Frank Kim Berry 1945-2016

By Tom Braunlich

When Frank Berry passed away suddenly and surprisingly last June it soon became clear how much this hard-working chess enthusiast had meant to our community here, and how hard it would be to replace the loads of time and effort he expended supporting the sport of chess in Oklahoma.

I wrote a formal "tribute" style obituary for Frank that appeared in the August 2016 issue of *Chess Life* magazine, and also on Chess Life Online (https://new.uschess.org/news/frank-kim-berry-1945-2016-tribute-to-a-chess-conservationist/) If you haven't read it yet I refer you to it now for a basic bio on his fascinating life, as I don't want to repeat that here. (And be sure to read the interesting comments posted after the article by players who knew him over the years, including GMs Kaidanov and Kudrin, and veteran "legends" John Curdo of Massachusetts and Jon Jacobs.) It speaks of his dedication to the game the past 50 years, his unique style and oddball sense of humor, and his insistence that chess is a worthy sport with a history that merits preserving, even in places like Oklahoma that are relatively far from the major chess centers of the USA. I called him a "Chess Conservationist" and I think this legacy he started is worth trying to continue.

… And I mentioned how he had once played Caruana and, "rolled him up like a burrito," as he liked to say—not mentioning that the young prodigy was only an expert-rated kid at the time. Well, at Frank's funeral ceremony the final position of this game was set up on the board with scoresheet and clock on the table, as if the game had just finished…

Still, there are many things I didn't have the space to include in that tribute which are worth recounting now.

> "Remember, not all trappers wear fur hats…"
>
> *— Frank K. Berry*

The FKB Library Collection

For one thing, FKB's chess library was impressive. NM Pete Karagianis, whose article "The Stillwater Effect" was in the same August 2016 issue of *Chess Life*, called it "probably the most impressive personal collection I have ever seen." Among the many books on the ceiling-high shelves are many exotic or odd chess books as well as many autographed by the authors and famous players. There are bound annual copies of the *Oklahoma Chess Quarterly* and *Chess Life*.

Email exchange in early September with John Donaldson, captain of the U.S. Chess Team who were then in the lead at the Chess Olympiad:

Braunlich: "We are all following the USA teams and how well they are doing in Baku, John. Keep up the good work! ☺ TOM"

Donaldson: "Thanks Tom. Two more rounds to go. When I see Fabiano every day it reminds me of a certain Okie who beat him when he was a kid. / John"

— PS … the USA won the gold medal.

Jim Berry says it appears that FKB's chess book collection will be given to the Mechanics Institute Chess Club, in San Francisco, which is the oldest club in the U.S. and is run by Frank's longtime friend and associate IM John Donaldson.

To me, the most impressive feature in the library was his collection of three-ring binders filled with newspaper clippings about chess that FKB had gleaned in personal research from around the state, sometimes from visits to far-flung libraries where he roamed through their local newspaper archives. He was an amateur historian, and it shows in the care and thoroughness of this work. From this he wrote some interesting articles for the OCQ, and was able to fill in some of the missing holes in chess history in Oklahoma; the rest was simply archived information suitable for research.

The official logo of the 2008 U.S. Championship sponsored by Frank K. Berry, one of two of these prestigious events he organized in Oklahoma.

Chess and the Searchable Newspaper Archives

A few months before he passed away, Frank contacted me with the exciting news that several major newspapers in OKC and Tulsa had recently upgraded their old newspaper files to be digitized – and searchable by computer online – for the years 1910-30. This meant it would now be far easier to search for chess stories from this nearly forgotten era, and he wanted to enlist me to help in the research. We immediately began exploring it, with me doing the Tulsa papers, and right off the bat we found lots of interesting stuff for future articles. It turns out for example that in the 1920s, when Tulsa was going through its oil boom and all those great art deco buildings were being erected downtown, the chess club boomed along with it and was surprisingly active with many creative ideas…

I plan to write those articles for the coming issues of the OCM, so keep an eye out for them.

Among FKB's research into chess was the effort to track down crosstables from past tournaments. Again, these were archived in his three-ring binders. His own tournaments were completely archived—including (he showed me) ones I played

	Top 25 Active Oklahoma Players			
	Player	This Month	Change +/-	
1	Advait Patel	2486	24	
2	Daniel Ng	2300	-13	
3	Howard Zhong	2229	5	▲
4	Mark Hulsey	2225	0	
5	Tom Braunlich	2201	1	
6	Tom Amburn	2200	0	
7	Sergey Galant	2178	0	
8	Joshua Alexander	2173	-1	
9	David Zelnick	2145	-3	
10	Anthony Paolercio	2130	-5	
11	Chuck Johnson	2130	121	▲
12	Ryan Farell	2089	0	
13	Michael Nugent	2087	4	▲
14	Tom Patton	2080	-31	▼
15	James Tyner	2074	0	
16	David Luscomb	2068	0	
17	Charles D Unruh	2062	0	
18	Veronika Zilajeva	2059	-9	▼
19	Alan Islas	2050	new	▲
20	Joe Dean Veal	2033	-20	▼
21	Matt Dalthorp	2024	-27	▼
22	Charles M Unruh	2007	0	
23	Ciaran O'Hare	2001	0	
24	Jeff Colbert	1983	-20	▼
25	James Long	1973	-16	▼

Player of the Month

CHUCK JOHNSON

Winner of the OCF FIDE OPEN, Chuck is now on a 13-game winning streak and over 2100. What is more dangerous than a creative player who is on a roll?

back in the mid-70s when I was first starting out in chess. I remember that in those Fischer-boom days even small tournaments would have big turnouts. In 1974, my first year, for example, the Berrys were holding monthly tournaments in downtown OKC … $10 entry fee with $100 first place, etc. Just a normal weekend Swiss – but it would attract 80-100 players.

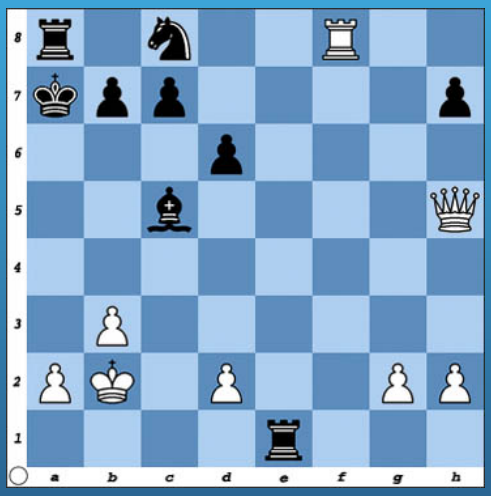
I played in one in January 1974, my second event. Incredibly, a week later I received in the mail a full crosstable of the tournament results which FKB had hand-typed on an old-fashioned typewriter! If you've ever used a manual typewriter you know what an incredibly tedious and exacting job a table like that must have been. Few other tournament organizers would take the time to do that, and everyone greatly appreciated it. Remember in those days there was no internet, and rating reports were sent by snail mail to the USCF. You'd play in an event and wonder for months what your new rating would be, published in monthly rating lists when they got around to calculating them; and often you didn't really have a good idea how you finished in the event unless you got your hands on a crosstable. The info FKB provided was like gold. He kept all those old crosstables on file, along with those he got his hands on from other directors.

The *Chess Life* article mentions FKB's diverse life, but I forgot to mention many things. For example, he was also an expert on the famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright and worked as a docent in a couple of Wright's museum buildings when he lived in Southern California. He was also a huge fan of OSU Cowboy sports—not just the football team, but also all the other teams; softball, tennis, etc. He attended the home games of those teams as much as he did the football.

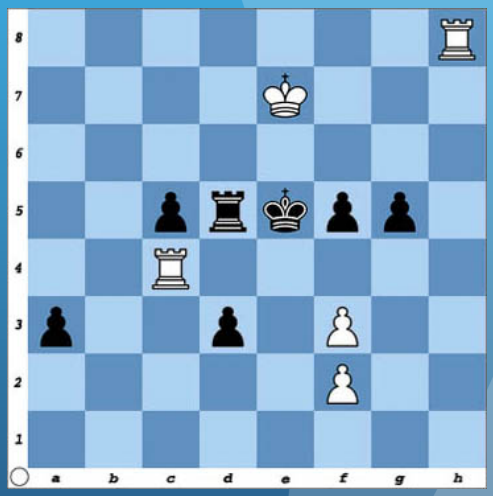
In recent years he became interested in local theatrical productions. At the funeral eulogy Jim told a funny story about how Frank suddenly decided to dive head first into that world and produce a play for the Town and Gown Theater in Stillwater. With no warning FKB dragged Jim to meet the author of a play

PUZZLES

Answers Next Page



White to move and win. (Easy)



White to move and win. (Difficult)
This is fun little Study by Dr. Alois Wotawa (1961)

he liked that dealt with early statehood politics. Over lunch Frank asked the author if he could produce the play and it was agreed that he would so so. When Frank pointed out that his and Jim's grandfather had been involved with the government at that time the author said he would write an extra scene into the play to include the grandfather— and Jim found himself volunteering to play the part! A typical lunch with FKB!

Frank K. Berry addressing the grandmasters at the player's meeting of the 2008 U.S. Championship in Tulsa. (Photo: TB)

It's a great example of how FKB would jump into anything that interested him, often on the spur of the moment. Seldom have I ever met one who could be as spirited so consistently as Frank. This included many chess escapades, like sudden trips to Las Vegas for a tournament that turned into adventures… At the eulogy, Jim said, "I wrote down ten great stories about Kim's life and things we've done, but I came to realize, these are dangerous! [i.e., not for mixed company]… So I won't tell all of them."

Dozens of chess players from around the state attended FKBs funeral in Stillwater, many of whom had known Frank since the 1960s. His burial vault had a beautiful large chess knight decoration. After the ceremonies, there was a lovely reception at Jim's house, hosted by him and his wife Ann, and it ended up with a big group of players in the study swapping hilarious stories about Frank. The consensus was clear. FKB will be missed.

I plan more bio information in future issues.

Answers to the Puzzles

(1) Remember, unprotected pieces are a hint that a deadly double-threat may exist hidden in the position. In this case, 1. Qh4! threatens the R on e1 plus another threat to win at least a piece with Qa4+. For example 1…Re5 2. Qa4+, Kb8 3. Rxc8+, Kxc8 4. Qxa8+ etc.

(2) Black has two very dangerous passed pawns, but white is up a rook. Quickly you will see white has chances to mate the black king trapped with no moves. If you see the idea that moving the pawn to f4 would be mate were it not for black's g-pawn, you are halfway to the solution, but how can you get that pawn out of the way? This leads to the winning move 1.Rh3!! (threatening mate, for example 1…d2 2. f4+, gxf4 3. Re3+!, fxe3 4. f4 mate! — it's the second f-pawn that delivers the mate). Black has two other defenses to try: (a) 1…f4 (giving white the e4 square to force mate with) 2.Rh5! Rd4 3. Rh6! (threatening mate in 2) 3…Re5+ 4.Kf7 and mate can only be prevented temporarily by giving up the rook. (b) 1…Rd4 2. Rxc5+ Kf4 (2…Rd5 3. f4+ followed by Rxd5+ and Rxd3+ wins easily) 3. Ke6! and Rxf5 mate cannot really be prevented.

Steve Wharry 1955-2016

Stephen Mark Wharry in 2011.

More terribly sad news for Oklahoma chess players arrived in August when Steve Wharry passed away. Steve was a very well loved player and one of the most prolific and popular organizers in Oklahoma over the last 30 years. His generosity to players and his hard work for the sport of chess as a TD and OCA president made him one of the most important chess leaders in the state's history.

A solid 1900-player who could beat anyone on any given day, his style belied his quiet friendly nature… He would study the Poison Pawn Variation of the Najdorf just for fun, even though he seldom got to play it.

But it was the innovative chess events he organized that made him special. Competitions that were fun and unique. Charity events. Exotic locations. Experimental formats. Early support for scholastic chess. … And much more. He led the way, even pioneering the development of tournament director software for pairings, programming his own system that he used successfully for years.

To do his biography and chess adventures justice requires a full article, which will appear in the next issue (December 2016) of the OCM.

Honorary Okie Jeffrey Xiong of Dallas had a great summer, winning the U.S. Junior Championship over a tough field in St. Louis, then following it up with a clear victory at the World Junior Championship in India. It is the first time since 1997 that an American-grown player won the World Junior.

https://new.uschess.org/news/grandmaster-jeffery-xiong-new-world-junior-champion/

Some previous winners were Spassky, Karpov, Kasparov, and Seirawan.

The World Junior Championship, for players U20, is still prestigious even though perhaps it objectively is not as grueling a test nowadays as it was before the 1990s. In those old days it was not an open event. Players could only qualify by winning their own country's national junior championship, and only one player from each country could participate. Nowadays it is mainly just a big open tournament, and does not require qualification. Dozens of young Indian masters were in this year's field, for example, diluting the strength of the competition. Thus it is really not much different from all the other "World Youth Championship" events they have every year, of which there are dozens. Still it is arguably the toughest of all such competitions, and Xiong had to face some dangerous young GMs, coming through impressively.

Xiong, who displays fine personal maturity despite still being only 15 years old, played very solidly. His game has been continuously improving for some time now. He receives regular training via the Kasparov Chess Foundation in St. Louis— a boon that allows a select few American talents to get advanced training previously not available. And he has been making the most of it. His FIDE rating now is in the

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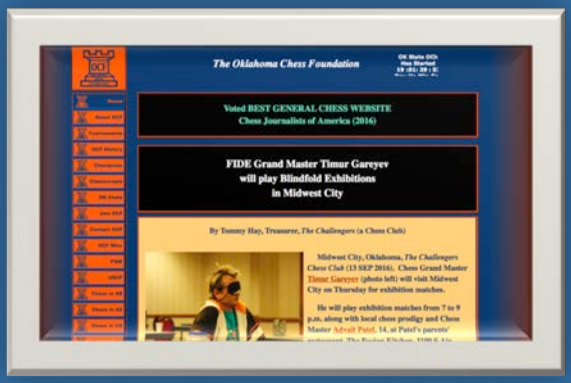
The Oklahoma Chess Foundation
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Chess Journalists of America (2016)
FIDE Grand Master Timur Gareyev
will play Blindfold Exhibitions
in Midwest City

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Actively Managed by Jim Hollingsworth
Our Intrepid Texican Volunteer

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... and more

world Top 100. Hopefully he will continue his serious chess play and not drop out like so many promising American talents do.

Here is a link to livestream video from the tournament: www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9DT1G0ZG2k

Congrats Jeffrey!

Honorary Okie Jason "Waz" Wawrzaszek, from Wichita, KS, won the Texas Amateur Championship event in Fort Worth this past May, with an impressive 6.5/7 score. Well, he won the tournament, but not the title, since he is not a Texican. So he had to be satisfied with the money prize plus a boatload of rating points, putting his numbers back well above the Expert level.

Waz bested a field of over 100 players in this tough U2000 event. A regular fixture in OCF tournaments for many years, recently he has been involved as a coach in Kansas scholastic play. Having met several of his students I can affirm they are doing remarkably well.

The colorful Grandmaster Timur Gareyev seems to have a soft spot for Oklahoma City and some of our talented youngsters there …

On September 15 Gareyev, often described as the top blindfold chess player in the world, gave an exhibition in Midwest City while on his way home from an exhibition in Houston. It was the second visit for the GM, held at the Fusion Kitchen (1100 S. Air Depot Blvd.), (http://yhoo.it/2dBQUYV) the Indian-American restaurant owned by the parents of top-rated Advait Patel.

According to Rebecca Rutledge, *"Advait Patel and Timur played a blindfold match against Veronika Zilajeva. Max took the notation for that. They also played blindfolded against one another. 11-year-old Naren Pullela (Edmond) played the blindfolded team of Timur & Advait to a draw! And Timur & Advait played each other a (sighted) blitz match as well."*

Many players showed up to spectate, including at least two from Tulsa and many juniors and regulars from the OKC area. The GM was traveling with his mother, Anastasyia James, director of the Anatoly Karpov School in Lindsborg, along with Marck Cobb.

It must have been a great event for spectators and very educational and inspiring to watch for young chess kids.

The local CBS affiliate, KWTV-9, covered the event and broadcast a video report: (http://www.news9.com/story/33291407/red-dirt-diaries-blind-ambition-drives-chess-grandmaster). A reporter from the Midwest City Beacon also interviewed them.

GM Timur Gareyev playing blitz with Advait Patel in Midwest City (left) and blindfold with Veronika Zilajeva and Patel right)

Later that evening, the exhausted GM stayed up late fielding endless questions from young Maxwell Barnes (see photo).

Rebecca said, "It was so kind of Timur— it was late and he was worn out, but I guess he knew how much it meant to Max."

Amazingly, Gareyev was able to replay for Max all his blindfold games from the Houston exhibition, from memory. Later this year he plans to set a world record by playing 50 games blindfolded simultaneously. He will have to win 40 of them to achieve the record.

Johnson, Chuck (2009) –
Ng, Daniel (2313)
[E31]
71st OCF Open, 04.09.2016
[Annotations by TB]
Click for Online-Playable Version of this game.

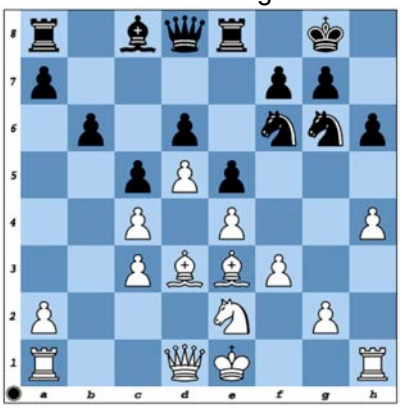
The key game of the tournament.
(See the report and crosstable on page 16).
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bg5
The somewhat unusual Leningrad Variation that used to be Spassky's favorite, even though it has a poor reputation. Chuck knows it pretty well.
4...c5 5.d5 h6
[5...Nxd5!? is a variation that shows you can never make assumptions about pinned pieces! But it doesn't quite work. Nunn gives this variation: 6.Bxd8 Nxc3 7.Qb3 Ne4+ 8.Kd1 Nxf2+ 9.Kc1 Kxd8 10.Qg3! Nxh1 11.Qxg7± However, in the GM game Finegold-Kraai, 2010, which was the same except white's king was on c2, black held a draw here after 11...Re8]
6.Bh4 d6
[6...b5!? is the wild variation played in the very famous game Spassky-Tal 1973, and I believe it is still the critical line here. That game went 7.dxe6 fxe6 8.cxb5 d5 9.e3 0-0 10.Nf3 Qa5 11.Bxf6 Rxf6 12.Qd2 a6 13.bxa6 Nc6 14.Be2 d4 15.exd4 Rxf3 16.Bxf3 cxd4 17.0-0 dxc3 18.bxc3 Bxc3 19.Qd6 Rxa6 20.Bxc6 Bb4 21.Qb8 Rxc6 22.Rac1 Bc5 23.Rc2 Qa4 24.Qb3 Qf4 25.Qg3 Qf5 26.Rfc1 Bb7 27.Qf3 Qg5 28.Qb3 Rc7 29.g3 Bxf2+ 30.Kxf2 Qf6+ 31.Ke1 Qe5+ 32.Kf1 Ba6+ 33.Kg1 Qd4+ 34.Kg2 Qe4+ 35.Kg1 Bb7 36.h4 Qh1+ 37.Kf2 Rf7+ 38.Ke2 Qe4+ 0-1 Spassky,B - Tal,M Tallinn 1973]
7.e3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 0-0
[Rare. The most common moves by far are 8...Qe7 or 8...e5 I don't know much about the Nimzo, but apparently castling for black might be a subtle mistake, giving up the possibility of playing ...g5 too early, leaving black a little passively placed on the kingside, and with the pawn on h6 as a potential target. Instead after 8...e5 the main line runs: 9.Bd3 Qe7 10.Ne2 g5 11.Bg3 Nbd7 12.f3 Rg8 13.Qc2 h5 14.h4 g4 15.Rb1 Kd8 Timman-Polugaevsky, 1985]
9.f3 e5 10.Bd3 Re8 11.e4
[Black's last move apparently intended to get in ...e4 (after first breaking the pin with ...g5), so Chuck decides to stop that. However, I don't know that this is a real threat that needs to be stopped. For example, white could just play the usual flexible developing move 11.Ne2 and if 11...g5 12.Bg3 e4!? 13.fxe4 Nxe4 14.Qc2 White's lead in development and black's weak kingside would give white plenty of compensation for a pawn after, say, 14...Nxg3 15.Nxg3 Rxe3+ 16.Kf2]
11...Nbd7 12.Ne2 Nf8

Pointing out the drawback of white's e4 move -- not only does it block in white's bishop for the time being, but black's maneuver of the N to f8 and to g6 could always before have been met by the simple Bxg6. Now that this capture is no longer possible, black can use this maneuver to break the annoying pin on the f6 knight.

13.Bf2!?

Since the B is going to get kicked back anyway, Chuck immediately regroups to start a kingside pawn attack.

13...b6 14.Be3 Ng6 15.h4!? *Diagram*



Threatening h4-h5, and eventually following with g2-g4-g5 and an attack.

15...Nxh4

[Daniel Ng chooses a tactical way to stop white's threats, but he misjudges something somewhere as the resulting position favors white. Instead the computer points out the following defense: 15...Nh5! 16.Qd2 (16.g4? Nhf4 17.Nxf4 exf4 is okay for black.) 16...Bd7! (16...Nxh4? 17.Bxh6!±) 17.Kf2 a6 with a dynamically balanced game, based on the idea if white plays g4 black will hop into f4 sacrificing a pawn gladly, i.e. 18.g4 Nhf4 19.Bxf4 exf4 20.Nxf4 Nxh4 21.Kg3 Ng6 22.Nxg6 fxg6 23.f4 unclear.]

16.Rxh4 Nxd5 17.cxd5

[17.Rh2? Nxe3 18.Qc1 Ng4! 19.fxg4 Bxg4 with three pawns for a piece and lots of weak squares in white's camp.]

17...Qxh4+ 18.Kd2≤

Black has R+2P for two pieces, which normally is good. But here black's rooks have no active lines to use while white's pieces are poised to jump into action on the kingside.

18...Bd7 *Diagram*

19.Qh1!

Great judgment. White simply trades off black's only active piece, and the advantage persists in the endgame.

19...Qxh1

[Keeping queens on with 19...Qe7 would be possible but risky, allowing white to quickly build up a kingside attack with g2-Qh5/Rh1 and Bxh6 or g4-g5, etc.]

20.Rxh1 b5

Black needs to do something; so getting the pawns rolling or opening a line for his rooks on the queenside makes sense.

21.Ng3! a5 22.Nf5

This active N is perfectly placed.

22...Bxf5

Ng decides he can't tolerate that N, but this move gives white the "two bishops" and they will prove to coordinate well. [Instead, 22...c4!? 23.Bc2 (23.Nxd6 cxd3 24.Nxe8 Rxe8 25.Kxd3= Oppo bishops) 23...Ra6 24.g4 Rb8 looks like black's best chance to me. The computer hates this line for black, but at least he has some counterplay and it is up to white how to make progress.]

23.exf5 c4 24.Bc2

White threatens f5-f6.

24...f6 25.Rh4

Nice, activating the rook, and the pressure on c4 slows black's pawns.

25...Rec8 26.f4 Kf7 27.a3 Rc7 28.Bd1?

[This slip allows an opportunity for black. The computer points out the stronger move was 28.fxe5 fxe5 29.Rg4! and white will continue Rg6 and f5-f6 opening things up on the kingside for the bishops.]

28...Ra6

[Apparently missing an opportunity:

28...b4! 29.axb4? (29.Bh5+ Ke7 30.a4 Rb8=) 29...axb4 30.cxb4 Ra2+ 31.Kc1 Rxg2 and black now has the rook activity he needed and is not worse.]

29.g3 b4

Late now.

30.fxe5 bxa3?

[30...fxe5 has to be tried, and black is still in the game. 31.a4 Kf6 (31...b3 32.Kc1) 32.Bc2 b3 33.Bb1 Ra8 34.Rg4 Kf7 35.Rg6 and white still has winning chances, but his light bishop is now awkwardly placed and the b3 pawn could be a distraction.]

31.Bh5+

[31.e6+ also wins, but note how white has to be careful— 31...Ke7 32.Kc2 Ra8 (32...Rb7 33.Rxc4! a4 34.Rb4) 33.Bc1! a2 34.Kb2+-]

31...Ke7 32.exf6+ Kxf6 33.Re4!

Chuck closes out the game now nicely...

33...Re7

[33...Kxf5 34.Re6 and a nice mate with g3-g4 next move cannot be prevented.]

34.Bd4+ Re5 35.Bxe5+ dxe5 36.Rxc4

Stopping the a-pawn due to the threat of Ra4, just in time.

36...a4 37.Kc2 Kxf5 38.Rc6 Rxc6 39.dxc6 Ke6 40.Bf7+ Kd6 41.Bd5 h5 42.Be4 g5 43.Kb1 h4 44.gxh4 gxh4 45.Ka2 1-0

Nice game by Chuck Johnson!

What Chess Set Reminds Me of Cuban Women?

by Istvan Szabad

Note: Istvan "Steve" Szabad is a veteran player who lives in Tulsa but was born in Hungary. He learned chess in the days of communism, and has traveled to many places. Over the years he has developed a special expertise on chess sets of all kinds, with an impressive collection and just as many interesting stories of his adventures in this esoteric world, which can often be somewhat of a detective story. He will write a regular column on these diversions for us. —TB

Hi, Okie chess fans! I've been a USCF member since 2003. During our tournaments here, I not only enjoy the exciting games but also take interest in the many different kinds of chess sets that the players use. The styles of sets in tournament play differ between countries and traditions.

In Oklahoma nowadays I notice that we mostly use the cheaper, affordable plastic sets offered from online sources, such as the USCF's Standard Club Set.

But the situation about 40-50 years ago was different in Oklahoma. The so-called Drueke (pronounced: *droo-key*) sets were seen almost everywhere, and I have some stories about them.

Drueke chess sets were made in the USA for about 100 years. Established in 1914 by William Drueke, the Grand Rapids, Michigan, company thrived for decades until 2010 when its last remaining production wooden chessboards were sold. Today the Carrom Company owns the Drueke chess line but only 2 products are available (travel chess set and wooden checkers). Initially Drueke imported wooden sets from France, refinished and packaged them and then sold them under the Drueke name. Later they made their own wooden sets (and beautiful boards), but only starting in the 1950s did they come out with more affordable plastic chessmen. They also made travel (pocket)

chess sets in both pegged and magnetic versions, and in the 1950s began experimenting with sales of sets made with an early form of plastic called Bakelite.

The "Player's Choice" Style becomes King

Drueke's most popular plastic chess set was the "Players' Choice" design from 1965 that became extremely widespread among tournament players in Oklahoma and the USA until the early 1980s.

It featured pieces that were "thicker" and more solid looking than today's designs, and had heavy lead weights inside.

First appearing in 1965, it came in 3 sizes: small: 2.5" king, standard: 3.75" king, imperial: 5" king.

ANNOUNCING . . .
A NEW U. S. C. F. BARGAIN!
The Players' Choice
CHESS SET
This set, introduced for the first time at the NATIONAL OPEN in Las Vegas last February, proved so popular with the players that EVERY ONE of the 100 tournament sets on hand was SOLD on the last day of the tournament! Ideal design, proper base size and correct weighting make this the finest, most PRACTICAL chess set available at anywhere near the price. Made of Hi-impact, satin-finished plastic, it will stand up to years of tough tournament use. The piece shown is actual size; King is 3½" tall. Shipped in a sturdy cardboard box. Price to USCF Members: just $7.50, postpaid! (Outside continental U.S. add $1 for postage).
Order From
80 E. 11 St.
U. S. C. F.
New York, N. Y. 10003
OCTOBER, 1965

It was the official set for several American tournaments and appeared often on the covers of *Chess Life* (for example: December 1965 issue). It benefited from another sudden boost in sales when a photo showed Bobby Fischer using the set in practice while preparing for his famous match against Spassky in 1972.

Maybe you guys don't know that the terms Single-, Double- and Triple-weighted were first used by Drueke to indicate the number of lead slugs that were glued into the bases of their chessmen for ballast. It had nothing to do with the actual weight of the chessmen.

Later, when the Indian manufacturers swarmed into the market en masse with their range of inelegant and knock-off wooden sets, they pirated the use of the weighting designation invented by Drueke. Unfortunately they did not understand the genesis of the term, so they would advertise their sets as "triple weighted" regardless of the size or weight of the chessmen. If you ever order a set of wooden chessmen from India, ask for the actual weight in ounces.

Unfortunately, sometime in the 1980s the popular Player's Choice set suddenly became unavailable when the company was bought out. The rumor is that the designers destroyed the molds for it at that time. In any case, whenever something popular becomes scarce, its value goes up among collectors or fans that remember it fondly…

Our well-known "chess-guru" *("guru" is a Sanskrit term that connotes someone who is a teacher, guide, or master of certain knowledge or field),* Tom Braunlich remembers what was great about the Drueke set:

> *"Its stout bull-like design made it seem so much 'stronger' than the other sets of the time, which always looked a little thin or top-heavy, as do the standard plastic sets today. But the Drueke set gave you a good psychological feeling when you used them in play. The pieces seemed to own the squares they were standing on … it's hard to explain. And yet this same feeling created a problem for the set, exposing its one weakness. The pieces were hollow inside and they inserted heavy lead slugs*

in there to give it the weight, covering up the hole on the bottom of the pieces with a cardboard lid and a felt bottom, and simply gluing all this in place. In normal use, this was adequate. But we kids played blitz chess with these pieces, knocking them around as kids do, and before long the bottoms would come off and the weights would go flying! It was weird playing a game when suddenly the bottom of a bishop would come off and its lead "guts" would be spilling all over the board whenever you moved it. (Solution: slide the pieces, don't pick them up! But that's hard to do in blitz chess.) People would repair and re-glue the pieces as well as they could – but pieces with missing weights soon became common."

By far the most distinctive feature of any chess set is the Knight — and the Player's Choice set had a very unique one. Strong and stout like a Clydesdale horse.

But what is going on with its curly hair??

Every time I see this knight it makes me smile... Why?
Let me tell you a personal story!

In the late 1980s I lived in Cuba. I grew up in Hungary, so the Cuban culture, habits, and customs were totally new for me. But what always shocked me was that many Cuban women (young and old) were walking in the streets, traveling on the buses with many (big) hair-rollers (hair-curlers) on their head. Yes, a saw my mum sometimes with hair-rollers when I was kid — but always at home, never outside, walking in the street! Much less on the bus! Well, every time I see the knight of this chess set I remember the Cuban women with hair-rollers on their heads...

Nowadays the classic Player's Choice set is almost totally disappeared from tournaments. In the last 10 years I've seen them only few times (they belonged to older players of course).

Still you can find old used ones frequently on Ebay.com like this one:
http://ebay.to/2e5qyAf
... But just be prepared to pay at least $100 for it. That's what happens when scarcity meets collectability.

If you want to try this set – you can buy a "reproduction" plastic version that is pretty faithful in design (only slightly less heavy), although even these are hard to find because they go under different names. I bought one from ChessHouse (under "Paladin plastic pieces" name). I just checked now — unfortunately it is discontinued... But there is one currently available at this site:
http://ebay.to/2dEgb3g
Ooops! Right now I found a "good" offer from The House of Staunton (Antiques & Collectibles shop). "Drueke Players' Choice" Red chessmen.
They are asking "only" $395.00 !!!
Anybody interested...?

Nov 5 2016 **Arkansas Memorial Tournament** **Fort Smith AR**
4-SS, G/60+d5, EF: $25-30, Community Church at Chaffee Crossing,1900 Church Street, Barling (near Forth Smith). Sponsored by ACA, Karis Bellisario. Full info:
http://ocfchess.org/pdf/AR_Memorial_2016.PDF

Nov 19 2016 **The Challengers November Open** **Moore OK**
4-SS, G/45 + 5spm, 4 Sections, EF: $20, Regency Park Baptist Church, 2001 N. Janeway Ave., Moore, OK. For more info: http://www.uschess.org/tlas/6446.tla

Nov 26 2016 **3rd "Do or Do Not" Open** **Norman OK**
3-RR Quads, G/60+30spm, 2 Sections, EF: $25-30, OU Student Union, Norman. Sponsored by Youth Chess OK. Full info the club site:
http://oklahoma.orgsync.com/org/chess/DoOrDoNot2

Dec 31 2016 **26th OCF Holiday Open** **Stillwater OK**
4-SS, G/50 + 15 spm. (Dual rated) Hwy Express Inn & Suites, 2313 West 6th Ave (Hwy-51), Stillwater OK 74074. 1-405-372-2425. HR: 1b-$40, 2b-$50, suite-$60. Free Parking. $$100-1st, other $ per entries. REG: 9-9:45 AM. RDS: 10-12:30-3-5:30 PM. EF: $20. (1) half pt bye Rds 1 2 or 3. LS W. Jim Berry P O Box 351 Stillwater, OK 74076. Info email Jim Berry: mailto:JaBerrycg@aol.com

Jan 28-29 2017 **3rd Norman Chess Festival** **Norman OK**
Details TBA

Feb 11 2017 **4th "Do or Do Not" Open** **Norman OK**
3-RR Quads, G/60+30spm, 2 Sections, EF: $25-30, OU Student Union, Norman. Sponsored by Youth Chess OK. Full info will be at the club site.

Apr 29 2017 **15th Red River Shootout** **Davis OK**
This is the REAL Red River Shootout, the annual team match between the most fanatical chess players in Oklahoma and Texas. Two games with same opponent. More details at http://rrsochess.net/rrso_home.html#RRSO including the history of the event, team captains, and more.

Tournament Reports

71st OCF FIDE OPEN

The "71st OCF FIDE Open" was the last event organized by Frank Berry before his passing. His brother Jim Berry took over TD duties with Tom Braunlich assisting. The FIDE-rated event took place September 3-4 in Tulsa at the Trade Winds on Labor Day Weekend. Why Frank named the event such was a mystery, as usually this event would have had the customary name "Jerry Spann Memorial," the traditional name of the state championship for many years. In lieu of that, Jim took the opportunity to name this event as a memorial to both Frank K Berry and Steve Wharry.

Expert Chuck Johnson won impressively with a 5-0 score including a 4th round upset of 2313-rated Daniel Ng, a newly-arrived student at OU from Houston. Johnson also had wins over Tom Patton (2111) and Jason Wawrzaszek (2053), gaining nearly 100 rating points and going over 2100 for the first time.

Veteran Chris Dooley, with 4-1, won clear second place. Dooley was a fixture in Tulsa-area chess in the early 1980s with a solid expert rating, and has recently moved back to Oklahoma. Notable also in the Open section was the performance of youngsters Sheena Zeng (1868), who was undefeated against strong opposition, and Sho Glashausser (1836), and Kiana Hajiarbabi (1837); all from Kansas.

Jeremiah Buenger (pronounced "Binger") from Wisconsin won the hard-fought Reserve section 5-0 with a combative last-round battle annotated in this issue. Veteran Okie Bruce Wells won the Reserve title with clear 2nd place at 4-1. Several youngsters also performed well in this section. I was particularly impressed with nine-year-old Maxwell Barnes from OKC, who won his first three games and whose rating already is getting into the 1400s.

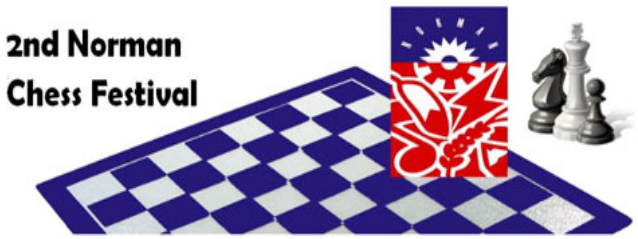
See tournament crosstables for full information, and the games section for games from this event.

71st OCF FIDE OPEN • Open Section
September 3-4 • Tulsa OK • TD: Jim Berry

#	Name	Rtng	Post	St	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Chuck Johnson	2009	2082	OK	W24	W9	W19	W6	W3	5.0
2	Christopher Dooley	1923	1969	OK	W21	L3	W15	W17	W8	4.0
3	Jason Wawrzaszek	2053	2061	KS	W16	W2	H---	W7	L1	3.5
4	Erick Logan Zachare	1980	1991	OK	W20	L6	D5	W16	W9	3.5
5	Sheena Zeng	1868	1899	KS	W25	H---	D4	D8	W10	3.5
6	Daniel J Ng	2313	2305	TX	W14	W4	W8	L1	U---	3.0
7	Jeff Colbert	2003	2004	OK	H---	W18	D17	L3	W14	3.0
8	James Long	1989	1982	OK	W23	W11	L6	D5	L2	2.5
9	Wayne L Hatcher	1901	1905	OK	W22	L1	D14	W19	L4	2.5
10	James Joy	1936	1924	OK	L11	W23	H---	W12	L5	2.5
11	Zachary Walling	1753	1790	OK	W10	L8	H---	D14	D19	2.5
12	Judson Temple	1832	1835	OK	D17	D15	H---	L10	W25	2.5
13	Jeff Lloyd	1602	1643	OK	H---	L17	L18	W24	W23	2.5
14	Kiana Hajiarbabi	1837	1838	KS	L6	W20	D9	D11	L7	2.0
15	Alex Wolf	1900	1873	AR	D18	D12	L2	D22	D21	2.0
16	Sho Glashausser	1836	1819	KS	L3	D22	W25	L4	D18	2.0
17	Joe Dean Veal	2053	2038	OK	D12	W13	D7	L2	U---	2.0
18	Curtis Williams	1613	1638	OK	D15	L7	W13	L20	D16	2.0
19	Tom Patton	2111	2087	OK	W26	H---	L1	L9	D11	2.0
20	Richard Ravits	1758	1750	OK	L4	L14	B---	W18	L27	2.0
21	Robert L Petty Jr	1694	1708	AR	L2	L26	H---	W28	D15	2.0
22	Les Kline	1662	1673	AR	L9	D16	H---	D15	D24	2.0
23	Mohamm Hajiarbabi	1795	1769	KS	L8	L10	D24	W25	L13	1.5
24	Mike Tubbs	1800	1757	OK	L1	L25	D23	L13	D22	1.0
25	Rubin A Wells	1543	1546	OK	L5	W24	L16	L23	L12	1.0
26	Carl D Latino	1836	1839	OK	L19	W21	U---	U---	U---	1.0
27	Thomas Braunlich	2200	2201	OK	U---	U---	U---	U---	W20	1.0
28	Jim Berry	1895	1879	OK	H---	U---	U---	L21	U---	0.5

71st OCF FIDE OPEN • NOVICE SECTION
September 3-4, 2016 • Tulsa OK • TD: Jim Berry

#	Name	Rtng	Post	St	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Jeremiah Buenger	1454	1616	WI	W18	W4	W2	W5	W3	5.0
2	Bruce Wells	1528	1557	OK	W19	W6	L1	W8	W9	4.0
3	Joseph Buck	unr.	1650	AR	W13	W7	H---	W9	L1	3.5
4	Austin Geral Riba	unr.	1633	OK	W12	L1	W16	W13	D5	3.5
5	Cael Dou Province	1475	1502	KS	W24	W17	W8	L1	D4	3.5
6	Alex T Bohn	1318	1465	OK	W11	L2	W10	D7	W12	3.5
7	Ryan Chri Amburgy	1444	1475	OK	W25	L3	W17	D6	W11	3.5
8	Luke M Tran	1356	1460	KS	W14	W15	L5	L2	W16	3.0
9	Maxwell Barnes	1314	1361	OK	W23	W16	W21	L3	L2	3.0
10	Steve Boydston	1590	1554	OK	L21	W22	L6	W17	W18	3.0
11	Martin Stahl	1595	1564	MO	L6	W19	D12	W14	L7	2.5
12	Jeff W McMillen	1402	1412	MO	L4	W25	D11	W15	L6	2.5
13	Stanley M Horton	1409	1402	MO	L3	W24	W20	L4	H---	2.5
14	Jared Ray Ellis	1628	1584	OK	L8	D21	W18	L11	W22	2.5
15	Istvan Szabad	1633	1593	OK	X27	L8	H---	L12	W21	2.5
16	Jim Yi Huang	1520	1477	OK	W22	L9	L4	W21	L8	2.0
17	Eric Wang	unr.	1270	OK	W26	L5	L7	L10	W23	2.0
18	Joshua Riesenberg	1060	1117	OK	L1	W26	L14	W23	L10	2.0
19	Jason L Sutton	1153	1121	OK	L2	L11	L23	W25	W24	2.0
20	Alex Glashausser	1169	1163	KS	U---	W23	L13	U---	W25	2.0
21	Robert W Moore	1265	1285	OK	W10	D14	L9	L16	L15	1.5
22	Mike Covington	1134	1137	OK	L16	L10	W24	H---	L14	1.5
23	Oscar Wang	621	695	OK	L9	L20	W19	L18	L17	1.0
24	Chris Amburgy	1061	1015	OK	L5	L13	L22	B---	L19	1.0
25	David Nordahl	568	563	OK	L7	L12	H---	L19	L20	0.5
26	Shane Stonehocker	1435	1375	OK	L17	L18	U---	U---	U---	0.0
27	Sam E Ecton	1366	1366	TX	F15	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0



2nd Norman Chess Festival

The Chess Club at OU has been very active this year, hosting both one-day and two-day events, plus regular training sessions and outreach programs for scholastics. Led at first by NM Alex Zapata (who has departed for Texas Tech unfortunately) and now by new club president Florian Helff, they have ambitious plans and have been strengthened by the arrival of 2300-rated Daniel Ng this year.

Their first Norman Chess Festival last spring was the last event directed by FKB. This one, Sept. 24-25 at the OU Student Union in Norman, was directed by Helff and http://www.visitnorman.com sponsored, along with the Challengers Chess Club in Oklahoma City. It included the innovation of broadcasting live two games each round https://chess24.com/en using DGT boards.

NM Howard Zhong of Norman continued his recent successes by scoring 4.5 to take 1st. In round 3 he drew solidly with Daniel Ng (2300), who went on to finish 2nd at 4-1.

Sarah Brown won the Reserve U1700 section with 4-1. Her only setback came at the hands of nine-year-old Maxwell Barnes, who scored 3-2 against higher-rated players gaining many rating points yet again. The last kid I saw gaining rating points at this pace was … Howard Zhong!

2nd Norman Chess Festival — Open Section

September 24-45 • Norman OK • TD: Florian Helff

Pair Num	Player Name / USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1 OK	HOWARD ZHONG 13761257 / R: 2217 ->2229	4.5 N:C	W 4 B	W 3 W	D 2 B	W 6 W	W 5 W
2 TX	DANIEL J NG 12953905 / R: 2306 ->2300	4.0 N:1	W 8 W	W 6 B	D 1 W	D 5 B	W 7 W
3 OK	CHRISTOPHER K DOOLEY 10384681 / R: 1973 ->1969	3.0 N:2	W 7 W	L 1 B	W 11 W	L 4 B	W 6 B
4 OK	SHAUN GRAHAM-BOWCASTER 12590577 / R: 1820 ->1877	2.5	L 1 W	W 10 B	H	W 3 W	U
5 MO	DAVID SAYLER 12616509 / R: 1752 ->1799	2.5 N:2	D 12 B	W 9 W	H	D 2 W	L 1 B
6 OK	WAYNE L HATCHER 10513081 / R: 1908 ->1901	2.0 N:2	W 11 B	L 2 W	W 7 B	L 1 B	L 3 W
7 WI	JEREMIAH BUENGER 14593437 / R: 1642 ->1680	2.0 N:2	L 3 B	W 8 B	L 6 W	W 9 W	L 2 B
8 AZ	KYLE TWITCHELL 13390473 / R: 1848 ->1837	1.5	L 2 B	L 7 W	L 10 W	W 12 B	H
9 AR	ROBERT L PETTY JR 12937948 / R: 1681 ->1681	1.5	W 10 W	L 5 B	H	L 7 B	U
10 OK	ERICK LOGAN ZACHARE 15737794 / R: 1996 ->1964	1.0	L 9 B	L 4 W	W 8 B	U	U
11 OK	CURTIS WILLIAMS 12704398 / R: 1636 ->1624	1.0	L 6 W	B	L 3 B	U	U
12 OK	MATT DALTHORP 13564995 / R: 2051 ->2024	0.5	D 5 W	U	U	L 8 W	U

2nd Norman Chess Festival — Novice Section

September 24-45 • Norman OK • TD: Florian Helff

Pair Num	Player Name / USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1 TX	SARAH BROWN 13737001 / R: 1570 ->1594	4.0 N:3	W 13 B	L 5 W	W 9 B	W 2 W	W 3 W
2 OK	AUSTIN GERALD RIBA 16087642 / R: 1634P5 ->1634P10	3.5 N:3	W 4 W	W 9 B	D 3 W	L 1 B	W 5 B
3 OK	DONALD EDWARD WINSLOW 11292950 / R: 1513 ->1524	3.5 N:4	W 14 B	W 11 W	D 2 B	W 5 W	L 1 B
4 OK	LOUCAS MILLER 15405333 / R: 1352 ->1460	3.5 N:3	L 2 B	W 7 W	H	W 10 B	W 8 B
5 OK	MAXWELL BARNES 15409954 / R: 1340 ->1465	3.0 N:3	W 6 W	W 1 B	W 12 W	L 3 B	L 2 W
6 OK	JARED RAY ELLIS 15774461 / R: 1581 ->1573	2.0	L 5 B	W 8 W	W 13 W	U	U
7 TX	CHRIS BROWN 13467913 / R: 1561 ->1498	2.0	L 11 W	L 4 B	L 10 W	W 9 W	W 12 B
8 KS	LUKE M TRAN 15393083 / R: 1462 ->1440	2.0	D 10 W	L 6 B	H	W 12 B	L 4 W
9 OK	ROBERT W MOORE 12838658 / R: 1283 ->1320	2.0 N:4	W 12 B	L 2 W	L 1 W	L 7 B	W 10 W
10 OK	AUSTEN CHASE ROZANSKI 16109616 / R: Unrated->1283P5	1.5	D 8 B	L 12 W	W 7 B	L 4 W	L 9 B
11 OK	JOSHUA SAMUEL RIESENBERG 16023298 / R: 1126P14->1170P16	1.5	W 7 B	L 3 B	H	U	U
12 OK	FRANCIS MURHULA IRENGE 15820765 / R: 1582 ->1490	1.0	L 9 W	W 10 B	L 5 B	L 8 W	L 7 W
13 TX	JACOB J FARBER 13900835 / R: 1274 ->1259	1.0	L 1 W	B	L 6 B	U	U
14	DAVID NORDAHL	0.0	L 3	U	U	U	U

The World Championship Starts November 11

Online viewing and commentary will be available on several sites. The official site however will have many special features, including multiple cameras and 360º viewing.

https://worldchess.com/nyc2016/

But you must pay $15 to watch there. The Tulsa "Foolish Things" Chess Club plans a group viewing party. (See Club Information on OCF site.)

Tahlequah Nation Chess Day Open

The first tournament in Tahlequah, OK, in many years was organized and directed on October 8 by Loren Jamison. It was a 5-round "G/45+15" event held at the Cherokee County Community Center.

Tahlequah is the capital of the Cherokee Nation, and is actually the oldest municipality in Oklahoma by virtue of an incorporation act by the Cherokee National Council way back in 1843. It is located in a scenic part of the state in the Ozark foothills and Illinois River valley near Lakes Tenkiller and Fort Gibson.

The event was won 5-0 by Chuck Johnson, extending his winning streak. Turnout was low due to an unfortunate conflicting tournament held the same day in nearby Fort Smith, Ark, which attracted some Oklahoma players.

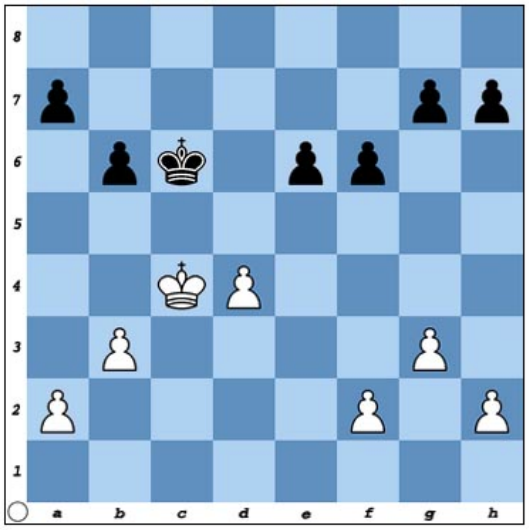
TAHLEQUAH NATIONAL CHESS DAY OPEN
October 8, 2016 • Tahlequah OK • TD: Loren Jamison

Pair Num	Player Name / USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1 OK	CHUCK JOHNSON 12948398 / R: 2120 ->2130 Q: 1895 ->1918	5.0	W 5	W 6	W 2	W 4	W 3
2 OK	RAYMOND GRIFFIN 12593443 / R: 1861 ->1837 Q: 1801 ->1768	3.0	W 3	W 8	L 1	L 7	W 4
3 MO	LUCAS ALVAREZ 15170104 / R: 1299 ->1427 Q: 1134 ->1273	3.0	L 2	W 7	W 8	W 5	L 1
4 MO	JEFF W MCMILLEN 12713158 / R: 1415 ->1515 Q: 1278 ->1384	2.5	H	W 5	W 6	L 1	L 2
5 OK	ISTVAN SZABAD 12917700 / R: 1581 ->1548 Q: 1372 ->1342	2.0	L 1	L 4	W 7	L 3	W 9
6 AR	LANCE UMBARGER 12061460 / R: 1932 ->1902 Q: 1883 ->1844	1.0	W 7	L 1	L 4	U	U
7 KS	LUKE M TRAN 15393083 / R: 1440 ->1439 Q: 1192 ->1205	1.0	L 6	L 3	L 5	W 2	U
8 OK	PATRICK NEWTON 16049327 / R: 1282P8 ->1254P10 Q: 1279P3 ->1183P5	1.0	B	L 2	L 3	U	U
9 OK	LOREN ROSS JAMISON 14116130 / R: 1129P11->1123P12 Q: 1034P7 ->1021P8	0.0	U	U	U	U	L 5

Zachare, Logan (1980) - Ng, Daniel (2313) [B01]
71st OCF Open (2.1), 03.09.2016
[Commentary by TB]
This interesting game features an intricate King-and-Pawn ending that I became interested in and spent way too much time analyzing. I present some analysis below, and am still not too sure about it; but it is fun. 1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.Nf3 [When I was young I used to love to play here the Mieses Gambit -- 4.b4!? Qxb4 5.Rb1 Qd6 6.Rb3!? with the idea if black moves his e-pawn you have Ba3. Fun stuff; but not good.] 4...Nf6 5.g3 [It has become fashionable lately in many of the variations of the Scandinavian for white to avoid the move d2-d4, reasoning it gives black a "target" to chip away at later with the move ...c5 or ...e5. Not playing it is supposed to frustrate black's typical plans. However, I think if that is your idea than a better way is 5.Bc4 with the idea that 5...Bg4 6.h3 Bh5 7.g4 Bg6 8.d3 is interesting and scores well for white.] 5...c6 6.Bg2 Bg4 7.0-0 Qh5!? Another Q move would be frowned upon by classical theory, but practically it does pose some awkward problems for white with the pin. 8.d4 e6 9.Qd3 Bf5 10.Qe2 [10.Qc4!? would be my preference. Give black a dose of his own Q medicine (!) and dare him to take the c2 pawn ... 10...Bxc2 11.d5 exd5 12.Re1+ Be4 13.Qb3 b6 14.Bg5 with great compensation for the pawns.] 10...Bd6 11.Re1 0-0 12.Ne5 [12.Nh4 getting the

Daniel Ng in play at the 71st OCF FIDE Open

same ending but with the two bishops is very pleasant for white. 12...Qxe2 13.Rxe2 Bg4 14.f3 Bh5 15.g4 Bg6 16.Nxg6 hxg6≤] 12...Qxe2 13.Rxe2 Na6 14.Ne4 [This ending looks pretty even but white has a small plus, and if he is to make anything of it trades like this are probably not the way. Black's normal way to counter white's space advantage here is to arrange the move ...c5. Thus, I would suggest white play to prevent that starting with 14.a3 which also has the virtue of keeping black's Na6 out of b4. If black then tries 14...Rab8 to protect b7 and threaten ...c5, white can stop it with 15.b4 Or if black ever tries to reroute his N with ...Nc7, then Nc4 from white is awkward for black's bishop on d6.In any case, white should have a slight edge. But the exchanges in the game drain white's advantage somewhat.] 14...Bxe4 15.Bxe4 Nxe4 16.Rxe4 c5= 17.Nd7? [17.Nc4 Bc7 18.Be3 completing development, is more active. White is tempted by too many trades.] 17...Rfd8 18.Nxc5 Bxc5 19.dxc5 Rd1+ 20.Kg2 Nxc5 Black has achieved an active rook, but white should be able to trade it off and be okay... 21.Rc4 b6 22.b3 f6 23.Bb2 Rd7= [23...Rxa1 24.Bxa1 Rd8 25.b4! is rather awkward for black, so Ng plays to defend the vulnerable 7th rank and keeps some pieces on the board, hoping his lower-rated opponent will make a slip.] 24.Rd4 Rxd4 [24...Rad8 25.Rad1 e5 26.Rxd7 Rxd7 27.Rxd7 Nxd7 is natural but too drawish, so Ng rolls the dice a bit as he will have to retreat his knight awkwardly.] 25.Bxd4 Na6!? [25...Rc8 26.Bxc5 Rxc5 27.c4 followed by taking the d-file would be slight edge for white.] 26.Kf3 [26.c3! makes sense, to keep the N out of b4 and attempt to sideline it. If then black plays 26...e5 he would be weakening a lot of light squares. 27.Be3 Rd8 might look dangerous, but black has no way to penetrate on the d-file and white will arrange to challenge the file with Rd1 in a few moves and have an edge with B vs N.; Also, after 26.c3 if 26...Rc8 27.f4 seems to keep white's B actively posted, again with the better side of a drawish position.] 26...Nb4 27.c3 Nc6 28.Rd1 Rd8 Black was allowed to re-activate his N so white no longer has any advantage, but neither does black as white can solve the pin on the file in many ways. 29.Rd2 Nxd4+ Otherwise white will play Be3 and keep the tiny edge of B vs N in the ending, so it's now or never for this trade. Still, the resulting ending should be a draw. 30.Rxd4 [I suppose Ng was happy to see this move, as King-and-pawn endings are always tricky, as this one proves to be. But if white wanted an easy draw he has it with 30.cxd4 since if 30...Rc8 31.d5 e5!? is the only try to keep the game alive for black, but white can play 32.Ke4 Kf7 33.f4 exf4 34.gxf4=] 30...Rxd4 31.cxd4 Kf7 32.Ke3 Ke7 33.Kd3 Kd6 34.Kc4 Kc6



Diagram

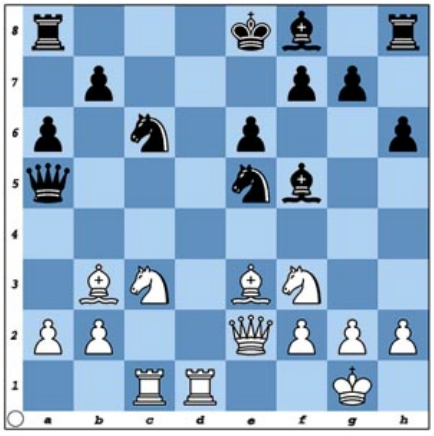
There is a lot going on in this KP ending, even though it looks simple. White has one big weak pawn on d4, but that is not

enough for black to win by itself. Even if black gets his king to d5 white has two squares to protect the pawn from and should not have to worry about zugzwang. Now watch how quickly it all goes bad for white! 35.f4?! Zachare has played fine so far, but here he is tempted by a move that sets some traps for his opponent, but ultimately badly weakens his white squares and allows chances for black to invade. In essence it is giving black more weak squares to target. White was no doubt aware of this, but thought black could never take advantage of it because if black's king ever goes too far forward, either on the queenside via b4 or on the kingside invading with ...Kf3, white can hit him with f4-f5 suddenly forcing through a winning passed pawn. But as the game shows black doesn't have to allow those shots and yet can still make progress. 35...b5+ 36.Kd3 Kd5 37.b4?
[This is way too weakening and white is suddenly lost.
Instead, I suggest white should play 37.g4 to try to prevent black from setting up a breakthrough on the kingside. It still looks dodgy for white, however -- and is an interesting ending to look at –
37...g6! *(37...b4? 38.g5 fxg5 39.fxg5 g6 40.h3 e5 41.dxe5 Kxe5 42.Kc4* white might have some practical chances in this race*.)* 38.b4 White can get away with this now that he has played g4 ... I think. *(*Note: *38.h4 h6 39.a3 g5! 40.fxg5 fxg5 41.hxg5 hxg5* and black, who has spare tempi with his a-pawn, will soon play ...e5 and put white in zugzwang, i.e. *42.b4 e5 43.dxe5 Kxe5 44.Ke3 a6 45.Kf3 Kd4* and wins*)* 38...h6 *(38...f5* as in the game, can be met by *39.g5=)* 39.h4 and now, to avoid retreating the K black has to push a kingside pawn, but which one? 39...h5! a) 39...f5 40.h5! gxh5 *(40...fxg4?? 41.hxg6)* 41.gxh5 Now it is black to move, and since they both have the same number of spare pawn tempos, black will be the one who has to give way and it is a draw.; b) 39...g5 40.fxg5 fxg5 41.h5! Now it is black to move and white avoids the disastrous zugzwang again. *(41.hxg5? hxg5 42.a3 a6 43.Ke3 e5 44.dxe5 Kxe5-+)* 41...a6 42.a3 e5 43.dxe5 Kxe5 44.Ke3=; 40.gxh5 *(40.f5 exf5 41.gxh5 gxh5* transposes*)* 40...gxh5 41.Ke3! Kc4! *(41...f5 42.Kd3=)* 42.Ke4 *(42.a3? f5;* Or *42.f5 exf5 43.Kf4 Kxd4 44.Kxf5 Ke3 45.Kxf6 Kf4-+ 46.Ke6 Kg4 47.Ke5 Kxh4 48.Kf4 Kh3 49.Kf3 h4 50.a3 a6* and wins. *51.Kf2 Kg4 52.Kg2 Kf4 53.Kh3 Ke4* etc.*)* 42...Kxb4 43.f5 exf5+ 44.Kxf5 Kc4! 45.Kxf6 Kxd4 46.Kg5 Ke5! Black's king will box white in on the h-file, and eventually push his queenside pawns to win-- but it must be done just right or it is stalemate: 47.Kxh5 Kf5 48.Kh6 Kf6 49.h5 b4 50.Kh7 Kf7 51.h6 a5 52.Kh8 a4 53.h7 Kf8! 54.a3 Kf7 55.axb4 a3 56.b5 a2 57.b6 a1Q# Wow. I don't know if all that is forced, but it does show how complex K+P endings are, and how they should be avoided unless you are very sure the outcome is going to be what you want.]

37...f5!-+ White will soon run out of pawn moves, have to move his king, and allow black to invade on one of the light squares white unfortunately weakened in the last few moves. 38.a3 a6 39.h3 h5 40.h4 g6 41.Ke2!? Ke4 [41...Kxd4 42.Kd2 e5 wins also, but is problematic.] 42.Ke1 Kf3 0-1

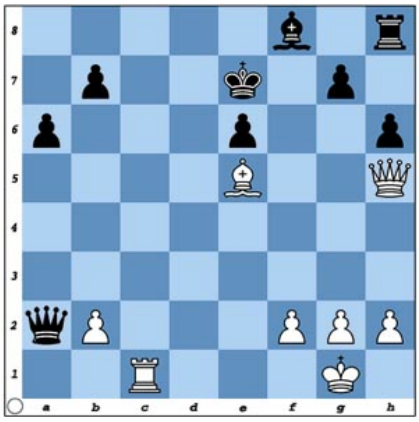
Wawrzsazek,Jason(2053) -Colbert, Jeff (2003)
[B22]
71st OCF Open (4.2), 04.09.2016
[TB]
This game features a blistering attack with many sacs. 1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb3 Bf5!? [With this rare move Colbert is avoiding the complicated main line, which runs 8...dxe5 9.d5 Na5 10.Nc3 Nxb3 11.Qxb3 e6 12.Nxe5 exd5 13.Be3 Bd6 etc.] 9.Nc3 [9.e6!?] 9...e6 10.0-0 dxe5 [I think it is strategically wrong to open the game when black is still a long way from castling. I'd suggest black should either close the center now with ...d5 or continue 10...Be7 It may be that Jeff was then concerned about the thrust 11.d5!? but it seems black is in no trouble after *(*or if *11.Bf4 d5* and black has a great form of French*.)* 11...exd5 12.exd6 Qxd6 when he is ready to play ...Rd8 or ...0-0, and the captures on d5 lead to a drawish

endgame-- 13.Nxd5 Nxd5 14.Qxd5 Qxd5 15.Bxd5=] 11.dxe5 a6?! [This is seriously neglecting development. Neither would trading queens be good here, as then white has a significant space and time edge. Simply 11...Be7 12.Bf4 0-0=] 12.Bg5 Qc7 [Still dangerously avoiding trades or development. 12...Be7≤] 13.Qe2≤ h6 14.Be3 Nd7? [It's still too early to go after a pawn. 14...Be7 15.Nd4 Bg6 16.Rac1 0-0 17.f4± shows how catching up in development is already going to be tough.] 15.Rac1 Qa5 [The consistent move 15...Ndxe5 is rocked by 16.Nxe5 Qxe5 17.g4 Bh7 18.f4 and here white's initiative is obviously well worth a pawn] 16.Rfd1! Ndxe5?! [Opening up the e-file now with white fully mobilized and the Q on e2 eyeing black's K, is really much too risky. 16...Be7 is still best but black still can't castle with a hanging N on d7.]



17.Rd5!

[17.Nd5 intending Bb6 would be a 'standard' offer here, and if 17...exd5 18.Rxd5 Nxf3+ 19.Qxf3 Qc7 20.Rxf5 is curtains. However, after 17.Nd5 Waz may have been concerned about the tricky response 17...Bd3 18.Rxd3 Nxd3 19.Qxd3 Rd8! is okay for black.; But after 17.Nd5 Bd3 18.Rxd3 Nxd3 the computer finds the strong shot 19.Rxc6! bxc6 20.Bb6 trapping black's queen, and 20...Qxd5 21.Bxd5 cxd5 22.Qxd3 is crushing for white. Instead, Waz chooses a different sac on d5, literally forcing Jeff to open the e-file!] 17...exd5 18.Nxe5 Be6 [18...Nxe5 19.Bd4 Bd6 20.Bxe5± is too much.] 19.Nxd5 winning, as the N can't be taken and Bb6 is threatened. 19...Rc8 [19...Bxd5 20.Nxc6 Qb5 *(20...bxc6 21.Bb6+)* 21.Qxb5 axb5 22.Bxd5+-] 20.Bb6 Qb5 21.Bc4 Qa4 22.Nc7+ Rxc7 23.Bxe6 Nxe5 24.Bxc7 fxe6 25.Bxe5 Qxa2 [25...Kf7 26.Rc7+ Kg8 27.Bxg7 Bxg7 28.Qxe6+ Kh7 29.Qf5+ Kg8 30.Qf7+ Kh7 31.Qxg7#] 26.Qh5+ Ke7



27.Rc7+ Kd8 28.Rc8+! 1-0

Nice game by the expert from Wichita! Jeff took too many risks, but Jason had to accurately exploit them.

Veal, Joe Dean (2053) - Dooley, Chris (1923)
[A25]
71st OCF Open (4.2), 04.09.2016
[TB]

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 e5 3.Bg2 Bc5 4.Nc3 0-0 5.e3 Nc6 6.a3 a5 7.Nge2 d6 8.h3 [It seems this gives black too much a free hand. Better was the natural grab of space in the center with 8.d4 Bb6 9.0-0 Bg4 10.Qd3 which is roughly equal, since 10...Qd7 intending to trade light Bs can be met nicely by 11.Nd5] 8...Bb6 9.0-0 Ne7 10.d4 exd4 11.Nxd4 Nf5 12.b3 [12.Nxf5 Bxf5 13.Bxb7 Bxh3 is good for black.] 12...Re8 13.Bb2 Nxd4 14.exd4 c6 intending ...d5 to blunt both white bishops. 15.d5! Such a move begs to be played. 15...Bd7 16.dxc6? [White should not relieve black's cramp so early. Better is to finish mobilization by 16.Qd2 intending to bring a R to d1 and thus pressure the d6 pawn, threatening only then to capture on c6. i.e. 16...Bc5 *(16...cxd5?! 17.Nxd5 Nxd5 18.Bxd5 Bxh3 19.Rfe1 Qd7 20.Qc3* is strong.*)* 17.Na4≤] 16...Bxc6 17.Bxc6 bxc6 18.Qf3 Joe is looking forward to a move like Na4 next, opening up his bishop dangerously on the long diagonal. But Chris Dooley is a veteran

player who I think held an expert rating since before Joe was born, so he knows how to deal with such things... 18...Bd4! 19.Rad1 c5 and thus the bishop is blunted,

Chris Dooley

and black has a good game. 20.Ba1 Qd7 21.Kg2 Rab8 22.Nb5 Bxa1 23.Rxa1 [Allowing black to get in ...d5 with advantage. Instead white could have played this nifty little desperado combination to hold the balance: 23.Rxd6 Qe7 24.Rxa1 Rxb5 25.Rxf6! Rxb3! 26.Qxb3 Qxf6 27.Qb5! and white has the better side of an even endgame.] 23...d5 24.a4 d4**µ** 25.Rad1 h6 26.Rfe1 Rxe1 27.Rxe1 Re8 28.Rd1 Ne4 29.h4 Re6 White's N on b5 is just a spectator to the action on the kingside. That's the difference here. 30.Rd3 Qe7 31.Qd1 Rf6 32.f3 Nd6 [32...Nxg3! is even stronger. 33.Kxg3 Rg6+] 33.Nxd6 Rxd6 34.f4 Re6 35.Qf3 Kh7 36.Rd2 Re3 37.Qa8 Rxb3 38.Qxa5 Qe3 39.Rf2 Qxg3+ 40.Kf1 Rb1+ 41.Ke2 Qe3# 0-1

Hatcher, Wayne (1901) - Patton, Tom (2111) [A87]
71st OCF Open (4.10), 04.09.2016
[TB]
1.Nf3 g6 2.g3 Bg7 3.c4 d6 4.Bg2 f5 5.0-0 Nf6 6.d4 0-0 7.b3 Ne4 8.Bb2 c6 9.Qc2 Na6 10.Nc3 Nxc3 11.Bxc3 Bd7 12.Rad1 d5 13.e3 Bf6 14.Ne5 Be6 15.f4 Rc8 16.c5 g5 17.Qe2 Qe8 18.Bf3 g4 19.Bg2 Nc7 20.Ba5 Kh8 21.Bxc7 Rxc7 22.Kf2 Some good positional moves by Hatcher in the last sequence -- trading off his bad bishop for a useful black knight, and Kf2 preparing to open the h-file sometime soon. 22...Bc8 23.Rh1 b6 Seeking counterplay 24.b4 Bb7?! [This idea of forcing thru the bishop to a6 and freedom is logical, but rather slow. It might be better to open some lines on the queenside with 24...Bxe5 25.dxe5 *(25.fxe5 f4!?)* 25...bxc5 26.bxc5 Rb7 27.h3 gxh3 28.Rxh3 Be6 and play down the b-file. An unclear position would result. In the game white is better.] 25.h3 Qc8 26.hxg4 Ba6 27.Qc2 Bxe5 28.dxe5 bxc5 29.bxc5 Bc4 [29...fxg4? 30.Qxh7# is the problem.] 30.Rh5+- Qa6 31.Rdh1? [31.e6! preventing black from getting lateral protection of his h7 square would have won easily. Now it becomes a fight again.] 31...e6 32.gxf5 Bd3 33.Qd2 Bxf5 34.Bf3 Rg8 35.R1h4 White is determined to get the h-file attack back on track by forcing through g3-g4. 35...Qd3? [The attack is thus stopped, but the pawn-down endgame should be lost. The computer comes up with a clever way to get quick counterplay down the b-file: 35...Qa3 To control

Tom Patton (left) vs. Wayne Hatcher

Wayne Hatcher went to Alaska to go fishing this summer, and caught a 180-pounder!

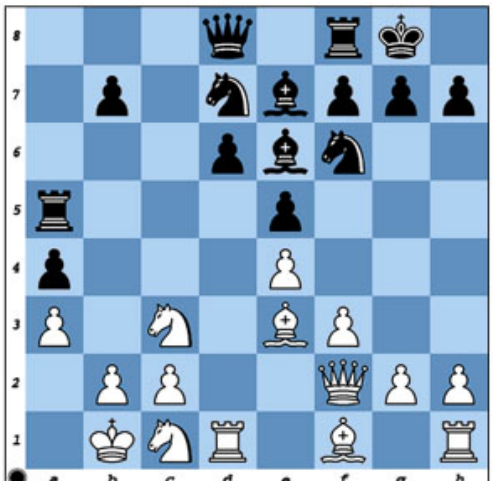
the b2 square in advance of black's next move. 36.g4 Rb8 Black's currently under-used piece enters the game. 37.Kg3 Rb2 and strangely it is perpetual attack on white's Q -- 38.Qd4 Rb4 39.Qd2 Rb2 40.Qe1 Rb1 41.Qf2 Rb2 42.Qg1 Rb1 43.Qh2? *(43.Qf2=)* 43...Qxe3 44.gxf5 Rg1+!] 36.Qxd3 Bxd3 37.g4 Rb8 38.Kg3 Rb5

[38...Bg6 39.Rh6 Kg8 would better slow whites play; but Patton was probably rolling the dice seeking his own winning chances by getting a passed pawn.] 39.Rh6 Re7 40.Rf6 Kg8 41.Rhh6 Bg6 42.g5! [Excellent. 42.f5 Bf7 is less clear.] 42...Rxc5 43.Bh5 Bxh5 44.Rxh5 Rc3 45.Kf2 [45.Rhh6! Rxe3+ 46.Kg4 d4 47.Rxe6 Rxe6 48.Rxe6 followed by R behind black's passed pawns and K-f5-f6 threatening back rank mates looks winning.] 45...Rb7? [The players were getting into time trouble. Here Patton missed 45...d4! 46.exd4? Rb7 and the tables have turned; black is winning.; Instead after 45...d4 white has to trade down to hold a draw with 46.g6 dxe3+ 47.Ke2 hxg6 48.Rxg6+ Kf7 49.Rg3 *(49.Rh7+? Kxg6 50.Rxe7 Kf5)* 49...Ra3 50.Rxe3 Rxa2+ 51.Kf3 etc.] 46.g6 Rc2+ 47.Kf3 hxg6 48.Rg5 Rg7 49.Rxe6± Rc3 50.Ke2 Kf7 51.Rf6+ Ke7 52.Rgxg6 Rxg6 53.Rxg6 Rc2+ 54.Kd3! With this move Hatcher secures and ending in which he is not only material up, but his pawns are connected passers, making it very hard to defend against. Patton puts up a lot of resistance but in the end Hatcher finds a way to get them through... 54...Rc4 [54...Rxa2 55.Rxc6+-] 55.Rg7+ Ke6 56.Rxa7 Re4 57.Ra6 Rc4 58.e4 Rxe4 59.Rxc6+ Ke7 60.Rf6 Ra4 61.f5 Rxa2 62.Kd4 Ra4+ 63.Kxd5 Ra5+ 64.Ke4 Ra4+ 65.Kf3 Ra3+ 66.Kf4 Ra1 67.Rb6 Rf1+ 68.Ke4 Re1+ 69.Kd5 Rd1+ 70.Kc6 Rc1+ 71.Kd5 Rd1+ 72.Kc6 Rc1+ 73.Kb7 Rf1 74.f6+ Kf7 75.Kc7 Re1 76.Rb5 Rd1 77.Kc6 Ke6 78.Rc5 Rb1 79.Kc7 Ra1 80.Rb5 Ra7+ 81.Kb6 Ra1 82.Kc6 Rc1+ 83.Rc5 Rb1 84.Kc7 Ra1 85.Kd8 Ra8+ 86.Rc8 Ra5 87.Ke8 Rxe5 88.f7 Kf6+ 89.Kf8 Kg6 90.Kg8 1-0

Zelnick, David (2148) - Braunlich, Tom (2213) [B22]
OCF Ladder 2016 (3.1), 04.06.2016
[TB]
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.d4 cxd4 6.Bc4!? Nb6 7.Bb3 d6 [7...dxc3 8.Nxc3 is a good form of gambit for white.] 8.cxd4 dxe5 9.Nxe5 Nc6 We have now transposed to a standard line had white played 6. cxd4. However, this line is supposed to be nothing special for white. 10.Nxc6 [10.Nf3=] 10...bxc6 11.0-0 Ba6 12.Re1 Be7 13.Nc3 0-0 14.Be3 [If 14.Ne4 I was going to play... 14...Bc4=] 14...Nc4 [14...Bc4 15.Bxc4 Nxc4 16.Qe2 Nxe3 17.Qxe3 Qb6 18.b3 Rad8 19.Red1 Bf6 20.Ne2 c5 21.dxc5 Bxa1 22.Rxa1 Qb5 23.a4 Qb4 24.Rc1 Rc8 25.Qc3 Qxc3 26.Rxc3 Rfd8 27.f3 Rd5 28.b4 a5 29.b5 Rdxc5 0-1 Mestrovic,Z (2302)-Korneev,O (2606) 2007] 15.Qf3 [15.Qe2 Nxe3 16.Qxe3=] 15...Nxb2 16.Qxc6 Qc8 17.Qxc8 Rfxc8≥ 18.Na4 [18.Ne4] 18...Nd3 19.Red1 Ba3 20.Rd2 Bb4 21.Rc2 Rxc2 22.Bxc2 Rc8 23.Bb3= Bb5 24.Nc5!? [24.Rd1] 24...Nxc5 25.dxc5 a5 26.a3 Bc3 27.Rd1 Kf8 28.h3 [28.f3=] 28...Ke7 29.Rb1 Bd3? [29...Bc6=] 30.Bxe6 Bxb1 31.Bxc8 Bb2 32.Bb7 [32.c6 Kd6 33.Bd7 is a better try for white, but probably still a draw.] 32...Bxa3 33.c6 Be4 34.Bb6 a4 35.Ba8! Otherwise white is in trouble! 35...Bd6 36.f3? [We were both low on time here. Instead, 36.c7 Bf5 37.Bb7 a3 38.c8Q Bxc8 39.Bxc8 Be5! 40.Bc5+ Kd8 41.Bxa3 Kxc8= is a nice combination to draw.] 36...Bd5 37.Kf2 a3 38.c7 Bxc7?

[38...Be6 wins, because 39.Bb7 a2 Black would be a tempo ahead of the above sideline. 40.Bd4 Bxc7-+ 41.Bxg7 f6-+] 39.Bxc7 Bxa8 With opposite bishops it is doubtful the extra pawn gives a win. In any case, with no time left I didn't find anything and David found a way to blockade. 40.Be5 Ke6 41.Ba1 g6 42.Ke3 Kd5 43.Kd3 Kc5 44.Bc3 Bd5 45.h4 Bc4+ 46.Kc2 Bf1 47.g4 Be2 [47...Kc4!?] 48.Kb3 Bxf3 49.g5 Bd5+ 50.Kxa3 Kc4 51.Bf6 Kd3 52.Kb4 Ke2 53.Kc5 Be6 54.Kd6 Kf3 55.Ke7 Kg4 56.Kf8 Kxh4 57.Kg7 Kg4 Draw 1/2-1/2

Paolercio, Anthony (2133) - Nugent, Michael (2062) [B90]
OCF Ladder 2016 (3.2), 04.06.2016
[TB]
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.f3 Be6 9.Qd2 0-0 10.0-0-0 a5 11.Kb1 a4 12.Nc1 Ra5 [These two players have contested the English Attack variation of the Najdorf many times, but not this particular line. Black's last move hopes to support ...d5. My database says the main move is to first play 12...a3 13.b3 Ra5 An example game here is 14.g4 d5 15.g5 Nxe4 16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Qxd8 Rxd8 18.Rxd8+ Bxd8 19.fxe4 Nc6 20.c3 Kf8 21.Nd3 b6 22.h4 Ra8 23.Bh3 Ke7 24.Ne1 Na7 25.Nd3 Nb5 26.c4 Nc3+ 27.Kc2 Nxe4 28.Nxe5 Bxh3 29.Rxh3 Bc7 30.Nc6+ Kd7 31.Nb4 Bd8 32.Nd5 Kc6 33.Bd4 g6 34.Be5 b5 35.Nb4+ Kc5 36.Nd3+ Kc6 37.Rf3 bxc4 38.bxc4 Ra4 39.Bc3 Bc7 40.Kb3 Ra7 41.Rxf7 Rb7+ 42.Nb4+ Kd6 43.Be1 Ke5 1-0 Abrahamyan,T(2290)-Shabalov,A (2585) / Wheeling 2010] 13.Qf2 Nbd7 14.a3



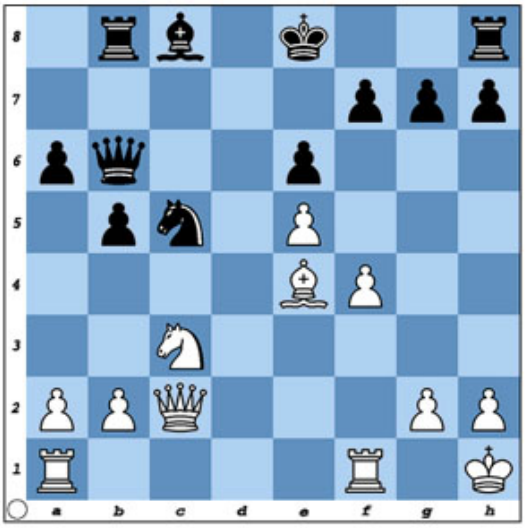
14... b5!?
[In my database 14...d5 is always played right away. For example 15.exd5 Nxd5 16.Nxd5 Rxd5 17.Rxd5 Bxd5 18.Bb5 Bc6= This line looks pretty good for black in the sense that white never got his attack going on the kingside. But black does have some weak queenside pawns to deal with in the endgame. Instead, Michael comes up with an interesting different -- highly aggressive -- approach. He later said, "I sacrificed the b-pawn and then the rook for his light square bishop. I've seen that idea elsewhere in ...a5 lines. A b-pawn sacrifice can distract the Nc3 from d5 guard duty, or a rook sac. And black gets a quick d5."]
15.Bxb5 ["Anthony could have kept a good edge by simply ignoring the b-pawn with 15.N1a2 It may be hard for a human to realize b5-b4 is not yet a threat, and cold-bloodedly continue developing." (Nugent) I'd say Anthony probably thought the exchange sac was unsound and so saw no reason to avoid it.] 15...Rxb5!? 16.Nxb5 d5 17.exd5 Nxd5 18.c4! Anthony's move seem very natural to me, but perhaps surprisingly my engine gives white only a slight edge here. 18...Nxe3 19.Qxe3 Bxc4 20.Nc3 [20.Nd6! Be6 21.Qa7 would have squelched black's fun, according to my Fritz. The point is that the N on d6 prevents ...Bf5+ idea for black.] 20...Be6 21.Qa7 Qc8 22.N1a2 Bc5 23.Qxa4 Nb6 24.Qc2 Black has good compensation for the exchange here -- two active bishops, and the white king has weaknesses in his shield that are hard for him to keep a watch over. If black can get his heavy pieces in play he may be close to winning. 24...Nc4! Threatening a3 and e3. Black is already winning back some material. 25.Nd5? [25.Ka1 Ne3 *(25...Bd4!?)* 26.Qd3 Nxd1 27.Rxd1=] 25...Bxa3 [The computer says stronger is 25...Bf5 26.Rd3 Nxb2! 27.Kxb2 Bxa3+ wins (Fritz). 28.Kb3 Qb7+ 29.Nab4 Bxb4 30.Nxb4 Rb8 is the point.] 26.Nb6! Qb7 27.Nxc4 Bxc4 28.Qc3 Ra8! Nice tactics. 29.Qxa3 Qc8 [29...Rxa3?? 30.Rd8#] 30.Qxa8 [No doubt Anthony did not like the look of his king getting chased

into the open after 30.Qc3 Bxa2+ 31.Kc1 Qe8 But the computer says that is best, and about equal. Instead Anthony takes a risk, exchanging to get two rooks vs. Q, in the hopes he could still have winning chances, especially since Michael was getting low on time. But white's exposed king means he never gets time to activate his rooks...] 30...Qxa8 31.Nc3 h6 [31...f6] 32.Rhe1 f6 33.Rd2 Be6 The constant possibility of ...Bf5+ is the big problem for white. 34.b4? [Anthony overlooks something. It is too early to try to get this passed pawn going. Instead the calm 34.Kc2 is only slightly better for black according to Fritz.] 34...Qa3**µ** 35.Rc1 Qxb4+ 36.Rb2 Bf5+ 37.Ka2 Be6+ 38.Kb1 Bf5+ 39.Ka2 Qa5+ 40.Kb3 Qb6+ 41.Ka2 Qa7+ 42.Kb3 Qe3 43.Ka2 [A time pressure blunder and white resigned. Instead after 43.Rd1 there is no direct mate and white can still put up long resistance.] 0-1

Nugent, Michael (2048) - Zelnick, David (2128) [C11]
OCF Ladder 2016 (4.1), 09.07.2016
[Notes by Nugent, Extra notes by TB]
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 a6 8.Qd2 b5 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Bd3 I think Karjakin first used this move in a blindfold game against Carlsen. [TB-- True, but he wasn't the first. This tricky move has been played more than 40 times in the past 5 years here, having hardly ever been tried before that. More common is 10.Bxc5 Nxc5 11.Qf2 Qb6 12.Bd3 which leads to exchange of queens soon and even play. The odd 10.Bd3 move seems to hope for more.] 10...d4 Seemingly white has walked into a fork, but he has resources based on a lead in development and the loose R on a8. [Probably it is best for Black to just develop. For example: 10...Qb6 11.Bf2 b4 12.Na4 Bxf2+ 13.Qxf2 Qxf2+ 14.Kxf2≤ a5 15.Rac1 Ba6 16.Bxa6 Rxa6 17.c4 bxc3 18.Rxc3± Ke7 19.Rhc1 Nb4 20.Rb3 Rc6 21.Rxc6 Nxc6 22.Rb7 Kd8 23.Ng5 Kc8 24.Nxf7 Kxb7 25.Nxh8 Nd8 26.Ke3 Kc6 27.Kd4 Kb5 28.Nc3+ Kb4 29.Nxd5+ exd5 30.Kxd5 Nc5 31.f5 Kb5 32.e6 Nc6 33.g4 Kb6 34.Nf7 Ne7+ 35.Kd6 Nc8+ 36.Kd5 Ne7+ 37.Kd6 Nc8+ 38.Ke5 Ne7 39.g5 Nc6+ 40.Kd6 Nd4 41.Ke5 Nc6+ 42.Kd6 Nd4 43.Ke5 Nc6+ Draw 1/2-1/2 Karjakin,S (2776)-Carlsen,M (2815)/Monte Carlo 2011/ Blindfold Rapid Game.] 11.Nxd4 Bxd4! [TB-- Seven games are in my database, and they all took with the knight on d4, and they all got into trouble. Discussing the game at Foolish Things the following week the two players were explaining why -- 11...Nxd4 12.Ne4! when Black is getting into trouble after

Dr. Michael Nugent

12...Qh4+ a) 12...Qb6 13.Nxc5 Qxc5 *(13...Nxc5 14.Bxd4 Nxd3+ 15.Qxd3 Qc6 16.0-0 Bb7 17.Rf2* white is up a pawn*)* 14.Bxd4+-; b) 12...Nf3+ 13.gxf3 Qh4+ 14.Qf2 Qxf2+ 15.Kxf2 Bxe3+ 16.Kxe3±; 13.Bf2 Nxc2+ *(*A GM rapid game went: *13...Qg4 14.Bxd4 Bxd4 15.Nd6+ Ke7 16.Be4 Bxb2 17.Rb1 Ba3 18.Bxa8 Bc5 19.Bf3 Qg6 20.Ne4 Rd8 21.Rd1 Bb6 22.Qb4*+ 1-0 (22) Karjakin,S (2782) - Topalov,V (2784) /Kiev 2013*)* 14.Bxc2 Bxf2+ 15.Qxf2 Qxf2+ 16.Kxf2±] 12.Bxd4 Nxd4 13.Be4 Nxc2+ Zel finds his way through the thicket of variations skillfully. 14.Qxc2 Rb8 15.0-0 Qb6+ 16.Kh1 Nc5 [TB-This is a natural move, but yet it is neglecting development dangerously. Black can't castle right away because the h-pawn falls with check. Better is a radical method of allowing black to castle with-- 16...f5!? 17.exf6 Nxf6!?]

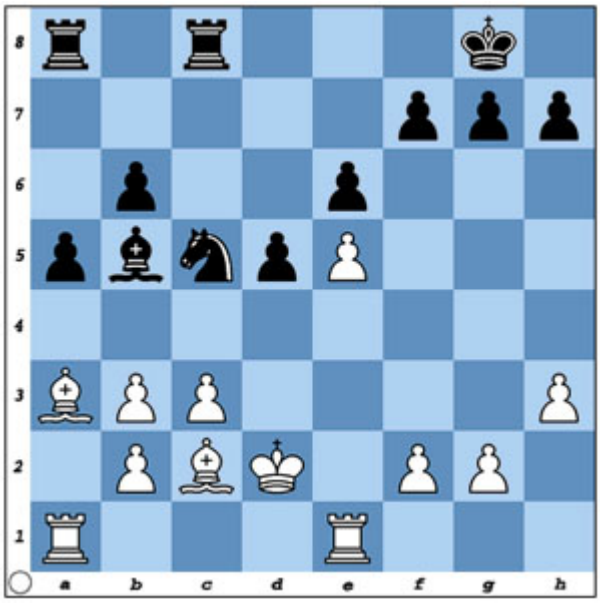


17.f5
[A critical try. White is trying to open the center while the enemy king is uncastled. The other move I considered was 17.Bxh7] 17...b4 [17...exf5 18.Nd5+-] 18.fxe6 [David pointed out that white has a safe way to get a clear advantage with 18.Na4! Nxa4 19.Bc6+ Kf8 20.fxe6 Bxe6 21.Bxa4 when black remains with lasting king safety and development problems for his king rook.] 18...Bxe6 [Zelnick said he wanted no part of the piece sacrifice with 18...bxc3 19.exf7+ Ke7, although it turns out the computer says the chances are then equal and perhaps this was the best chance.] 19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.Bxd5 0-0 21.Rxf7!? Another maximalist move. Better were building moves like Qc4, Rac1, Rad1 etc. I perhaps was trying too hard to force the position to a swift conclusion. However, with proper follow up, Rxf7 here does keep a slight edge. Unfortunately after using up loads of time calculating variations, I overlook a simple resource Black has.
[TB- Chuck Johnson and I were following this game in the skittles room and thought a strong plan for white here was 21.Rac1 Ne6 22.Qf5 with ideas of Rc6 or Be4 (forcing the ...g6 weakness).]
21...Rxf7
Another critical moment.
22.Rf1??
Ironically, I had spotted the opponent's next move as a recourse in other lines where my queen was on f2, but here had a blind spot. Other moves I spent time on here were: [22.Qf5 Qg6-+; 22.Qf2 Ne6 (as in the game).; 22.Qc4 was best. 22...Rbf8 23.Rf1 Qc7 The block with ...Ne6 isn't possible here.

TB-- Nugent explained at the Foolish Things chess club in Tulsa that he had seen the following key line if white exchanges everything off on f7 -- winning his material back and emerging a pawn up -- but after 24.Bxf7+ Rxf7 25.Rxf7 Qxf7 26.Qxc5 Black now has 26...Qf1+ 27.Qg1 Qe2 and white can't win. A good piece of analysis.
The group at Foolish Things thus looked at white anticipating this line and instead of capturing on f7 taking time out to play 24. h3 (making luft) instead (since black is tied up at the moment with the pin). This gives the following variation: 22.Qc4 Rbf8 23.Rf1 Qc7 24.h3!? a5 *(24...Kh8 25.Rxf7 Rxf7 26.Bxf7 Qxe5 27.Qxb4±)* 25.Bxf7+ Rxf7 26.Rxf7 Qxf7 27.Qxc5 Qf1+ 28.Kh2 Qf4+ 29.Kg1!± there is no perpetual here and white has winning chances.] 22...Ne6 23.Rxf7 Kxf7 24.Qxh7 Qf2 25.h4 Qe1+ 0-1

Snap,Charlie (1460) - Ramos,Sal (1507)
[D02]
2016 OCF Ladder (4), 09.07.2016
[TB]
A very well played game by both players, with a quite interesting ending. 1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 As Charlie knows, for a long time in Oklahoma, back in the '70s, this move was the specialty of George Hulburd, one of the strongest players of the time. We teased him for playing it, but now it is in fashion and even Carlsen is using it! Old George was ahead of his time! 2...e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.h3 Not necessary at this point. Better is e3. 4...c5 5.e3 Nc6 6.c3 Qb6 7.Qb3 Qxb3 [If 7...c4 white should answer 8.Qc2!≤; 7...Be7=] 8.axb3 Be7 9.Na3 [White could try 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.b4 Bb6 11.Nbd2≤ with idea of trying to establish a piece on black's slightly weak dark squares or to prevent ...e5 by black.] 9...0-0 10.Nb5 Bd7 11.Nd6 [11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.Bd6 Bxd6 13.Nxd6 looks attractive for white, who will start pushing pawns on the queenside if black defends b7 with a rook, but 13...Bc8 is simple and about equal.] 11...cxd4 12.exd4 Bxd6 [It sucks to give up

the good bishop, but 12...b6 13.Ba6 Ne4 14.Nxe4 dxe4 15.Nd2 f5 16.Nc4 is good for white.] 13.Bxd6 Rfe8 14.Ne5 [Black is cramped so I don't think white should allow exchanges unless he gets a concession in return. So 14.Bd3 makes sense and if 14...Ne4 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Nd2 f5 we reach a position in which white is somewhat better (dark square control) and furthermore you here could try to calculate what happens after 17.f3 e5 *(17...exf3 18.Nxf3±)* 18.d5 exf3!? I put it on my Fritz and it says simply 19.gxf3 is good for white*(19.dxc6 fxg2 20.Rg1 Bxc6* however gives black lots of compensation for the piece.*)*] 14...Ne4 15.Ba3 Nxe5 16.dxe5 Rec8 17.Bd3 Nc5 18.Bc2 Bb5 19.Kd2 b6 The players have been playing quite well and the position is about even. White has the two bishops in the ending, but they are awkwardly placed for the moment at least. 20.Rhe1 a5



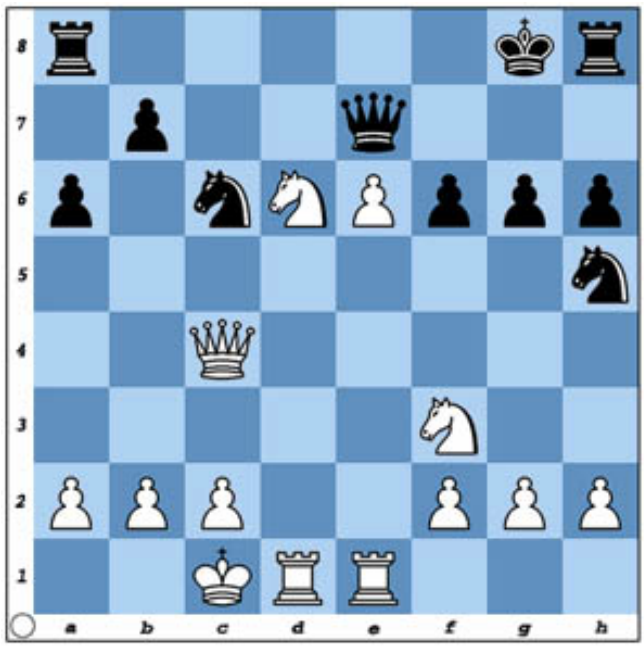
21.Ra2! This is a very creative move by Charlie, imagining some favorable tactics if he can double on the a-file. [21.b4 also makes sense, to try and free the bishops, but there is a nice variation-- 21...axb4 22.Bxb4 Na4 23.Ra2 Nc5 24.Rea1 Rxa2 25.Rxa2 Bf1!=] 21...Ra7 22.Bxc5! Rxc5 [22...bxc5 23.Rea1 Rca8 24.b4 cxb4 25.cxb4 a4 26.Ra3 followed by b2-b3 looks like it will win a pawn and the game.] 23.b4 Rc8 24.bxa5 bxa5 25.b4 Rca8 26.Rea1 a4 We've reached a similar position to the previous note, but here there is no pawn on b2 that can be used to increase pressure on the pinned a-pawn, so it looks like the position may be dynamically equal, but as you see the players make the most of it... 27.Bd3 Bd7!? [A little risky, but obviously Sal wants to retain some winning hopes. Instead 27...Bxd3 28.Kxd3 f6 29.Kd4 Kf7 30.Ra3 white might hope that his more active king could lead to something, but black could open some lines and at the right moment sacrifice the a-pawn to activate his rooks and get the needed counterplay.] 28.b5!? Now things really heat up. 28...Ra5 29.b6 Rb8 30.Rb2 Kf8 [30...a3 31.Rb3 creates a position where both sides have blockaded passed pawns but white can keep a grip on his space advantage. 31...Bc6] 31.Kc2 Again Charlie is playing very well. He wants to bring his king over to take over blockade duties and free both his rooks... 31...Ke8 32.Kb1 Kd8 33.Ka2 Rc5 34.Rc1 d4 35.c4! Bc6! [Grabbing the pawn with 35...Rxe5 is bad because 36.c5 Bc6 37.Rb4! wins it back with strong play. Black takes time to blockade first.] 36.f3? [Oh. So focused on the hopes of getting his passed pawns connected Charlie dares black to take the e-pawn, but he is overlooking something. Simply 36.f4 keeping material quality retains a small edge for white, but probably not enough to win. My computer gives 36...f6 37.Re1 Kd7 38.Ka3 g5 39.g3 fxe5 40.fxe5 h5 41.g4 *(41.Ree2* finally threatening K-b4, is met by *41...Bf3)* 41...hxg4 42.hxg4 Ra5= and here if 43.Be4 to try to break the blockade we get 43...Bxe4 44.Rxe4 Kc6 45.Rxd4 Rxe5 46.Kxa4 Rxb6 47.Rd6+ Kxd6 48.Rxb6+ Kd7= and it all peters out.] 36...Rxe5 Correctly evaluating the pawn duo won't become as strong as it looks at first. 37.c5 Re3 38.Bb5 Kd7 39.Rc4 Bxb5 40.Rxd4+ [Desperation from Charlie, because it all falls apart after 40.Rxb5 Kc6 41.Ra5 e5 42.Raxa4 d3-+ 43.Rc1 Re2+ 44.Kb3 d2 45.Rd1 Kxc5-+] 40...Kc6 41.Rc2 Rd3 42.Rf4 Rb7 43.Rg4 g6 44.h4 Rbd7 45.h5 Rd2 46.Rxd2 Rxd2+ 47.Ka1 Rd7 48.Rg5 Rd5 49.Rxd5 exd5

0-1

Duke,Brian (1609) - Sparks,Bill (1550)
[A48]
2016 OCF Ladder (5.5), 06.08.2016
[TB]
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bf4 The London opening doesn't really work very well against the King's fianchetto setup for black -- mainly because black has not committed to the move pawn to d5, and can instead put his d-pawn on d6 where it blunts the bishop and supports an eventual ...e5 for black gaining a tempo on the bishop. However, having said that, it is not a bad move and I've played it myself successfully. Kamsky also often plays it. It does eventually reach interesting and rich positions, you just have to live with the fact that white has given up his opening edge and allowed black to "equalize" easily. But even though the position is theoretically equal, that doesn't mean there is no play. There is lots of play. 3...Bg7 4.e3 0-0 5.Nbd2 d6 6.Bd3 Nbd7 7.h4?! A hypermodern move by Brian! GMs have been playing this move in similar positions successfully, but only lower rated players have tried it here, probably because it would work better if white's bishop was on e2 where it could support further pawn thrusts like g2-g4 and h4-h5 after his knight moves to g5, etc. 7...c5 [Logical to meet a pawn move on the wing with one in the center, but I would have played a move that looks a lot stronger to me -- 7...Qe8 Why? It supports the move ...e5, and more importantly look at white's pieces on d3 and f3 -- they are all ready to be forked by a pawn going to e4. White will have to deal with that threat right away and lose time. 8.e4 White has to stop that potential pawn fork. *(8.Qe2? e5 9.Bg5 e4)* 8...e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Be3 Qe7 with a very good game for black. White's kingside is weak.] 8.c3 cxd4 [Note that white's last move unprotected the B on d3, so this should make you think of ways to exploit that. So 8...e5!? 9.dxe5 dxe5 is possible, because if white captures twice on e5 he loses his recently-unprotected bishop on d3. However, white can retreat 10.Bh2 Qe7 11.Qc2 and is okay.] 9.cxd4 Qa5?! [This turns out to be loss of time. Black can still play the 9...e5 idea here too. 10.Bg5 *(*The difference between this and the previous line is that black has the square c5 open for his knight now, so white can't afford to open the d-file -- *10.dxe5 dxe5 11.Bh2 Nc5)* 10...h6 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 with an edge for black because white's kingside is weak and if he tries to grab a pawn with 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.Nxe5? loses a piece to 13...Ne8 14.Nxg6 fxg6 15.Qb3+ Kh8 16.Bxg6 Qf6] 10.0-0 The game is about equal. White would rather have his h-pawn on h3, but on the other hand he has some advantage in the center as compensation. 10...Nh5 11.Bh2 Re8? Strangely this natural looking move is a mistake. Black should move his N out of the way and finish the development of his queenside. 12.Qb3 A good move. White targets f7 and black has to be careful. 12...Qb6 A good decision to avoid tactical problems by exchanging Qs. 13.Bc4 Qxb3 14.Bxb3≤ Ndf6 15.Ng5 Rf8 16.Bxf7+? A tempting idea, but a mistake. Brian knows this trade is usually good for the player who gets the two pieces, but no doubt he thought white's pawns will roll up in the center and black's pieces will be kept under control. It's a good idea, but Bill is a very experienced player and he does a great job of activating his pieces and proving why they are superior. Instead, white should have played Rac1, and maybe can do the sacrifice on f7 later when his other pieces are better placed. 16...Rxf7 17.Nxf7 Kxf7 18.f3 The pawn pushes planned in the center are white's idea, but black sidesteps them nicely. 18...Nd5 19.Kf2 Bd7 20.Rac1 Bh6! 21.f4 Now white's pawns are static and the planned pawn roller in the center is postponed indefinitely. 21...Nhf6 22.Bg1 Bc6 23.b3 Nb4-+ You can see black's pieces have found good employment and are busy attacking all white's weaknesses. 24.Kg3 Nxa2 25.Rc4 Bb5 26.Ra1 Bxc4 27.bxc4 Nc3 28.Kf3 b5! 29.Rc1 b4 30.g4 Bg7 31.g5 Nd7 32.e4 Finally that pawn roller gets going, but black is too far ahead on the queenside now. 32...a5 33.e5 a4 34.Nb1 Nxb1 35.Rxb1 a3 36.Be3 a2 37.Ra1 b3 38.Bc1 dxe5 39.fxe5 Nxe5+! 0-1

Playing hall at the Norman Chess Festival in the OU Student Union. Note the wires on the floor leading to the two DGT boards broadcasting the top two boards live over the Internet. (Photo: Cheng Zhong)

Barnes, Maxwell (1340) –
Ellis, Jared Ray (1581)
[B13]
2nd Norman Chess Festival - U1700 (1), 24.09.2016
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Bf4 Nc6 6.Nb5 Bg4 7.Nf3 e5 8.dxe5 Nh5 9.Bg5 Be7 10.Nd6+ Kf8 11.Qxd5 Be6 12.Bxe7+ Qxe7 13.Qc5 Kg8 14.0-0-0 a6 15.Bc4 Bxc4 16.Qxc4 h6 17.Rhe1 g6 18.e6 f6
Here we see nine-year-old Max making a nice combination that many adults wouldn't see.



19.Nxb7! Qxb7 20.Rd7 Qb4 21.e7+ Qxc4 22.e8Q+ Rxe8 23.Rxe8# 1-0

Barnes, Maxwell (1340) –
Irenge, Francis Murhula (1582)
[B90]
2nd Norman Chess Festival - U1700 (3), 24.09.2016
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 Nbd7 7.Qd2 e5 8.Nf5 Qc7 9.0-0-0 Nc5 10.Nxd6+ Bxd6 11.Qxd6 Qxd6 12.Rxd6 Nfxe4 13.Nxe4 Nxe4 14.Rd5 f6 15.f3 Be6 16.Ra5 Nd6 17.Bd3 Nc4 18.Bxc4 Bxc4 19.Rd1 0-0 20.Rd7 Rf7 21.Rd6 Rc7 22.Bb6 Re7 23.Rc5 Bf1 24.g3 Be2 25.Rc3 Rae8 26.Re3 Bb5 27.Bc5 Kf7 28.b3 Kg6 29.c4 Bc6 30.f4 Kf5 31.Rxc6 bxc6 32.Bxe7 Rxe7 33.h3 Rd7 34.Rf3 Ke4 35.Rc3 exf4 36.gxf4 Kxf4 37.a4 Ke4 38.b4 Rd3?? 39.Rxd3 Kxd3 40.b5 cxb5 41.cxb5 axb5 42.axb5 f5 43.b6 f4 44.b7 f3 45.b8Q f2 46.Qf4 Ke2 47.Qe4+ Kf1 48.Qf3 Ke1 49.Qe3+ Kf1 50.Kd2 h5 51.Qg3 h4 52.Qh2 g5 53.Qh1# 1-0

Ng, Daniel J (2306) –
Zhong, Howard (2217)
[A30]
2nd Norman Chess Festival (3), 24.09.2016
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 b6 4.Be2 Bb7 5.0-0 Be7 6.c4 0-0 7.Nc3 d5 8.b3 c5 9.Bb2 dxc4 10.Bxc4 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Nc6 12.Nxc6 Bxc6 13.Qxd8 Rfxd8 14.Rfd1 Ne4 15.Nxe4 Bxe4 16.Rac1 Kf8 17.Kf1 Rxd1+ 18.Rxd1 Rd8 19.Rxd8+ Bxd8 20.Ba3+ Be7 21.Bxe7+ Kxe7 22.b4 Kd6 23.a3 g5 24.g3 Bf3 25.Ke1 Ke5 26.Kd2 h5 27.Bd3 f5 28.Kc3 h4 29.Kc4 hxg3 30.hxg3 Bc6 31.f4+ gxf4 32.gxf4+ Draw ½ - ½

Announcing the Pioneer Chess League

By Bran Whitcomb

The "Pioneer Chess League" is an innovative new concept for a statewide inter-city chess league that will debut starting in January 2017 and can involve players of all levels in a fun, flexible, and family-friendly array of rated play.

Teams will be balanced so players who are new to competitive chess are just as crucial to a team's success as experienced veterans, and all players will enjoy working together in a low-anxiety environment. This concept is similar to friendly bowling leagues — but with a unique system of adaptable scheduling that makes it easy to participate, without being tied down to a fixed "bowling night" once a week. Team captains will have great flexibility to schedule matches throughout a playing season that lasts roughly half a year!

No hurries, no worries!

I've been advocating this concept for a long time and I am excited now to be developing the idea into a full-fledged system for rated competition. Is it experimental? Certainly! I've never seen a flex-schedule system like this, which allows team captains to fit in required matches when and where they can. It has many advantages — both for you as an individual chess player, and for the development of chess in our state as a whole.

How it Works

The full rules will be posted soon, but here is the basic outline:

- 4-player teams. Roster rules will require a balanced team, so every player is important to the team's success.
- Each team has a Captain who must be a certified TD.
- Anyone willing to be a Team Captain can form a team.
- Teams are formed in the Pre-Season during January/February, and the regular season lasts from March through August, providing lots of time for many matches.
- Each team chooses a name, (and each member gets a sports cap or T-shirt with the PCL logo and team name on it).
- Team Captains work together to schedule match dates and locations that are convenient for their members.
- Two Divisions make travel considerations easy… Western Division (general OKC area) and Eastern Division (general Tulsa area).
- Each Division has a "Commissioner" who helps the team Captains and who is available to assist where needed.
- A Championship match between the two Division winners will be organized by the OCF, in conjunction with a "Pioneer Chess Festival" that includes other chess events for spectators.
- The Division winners will have their travel expenses paid, and the League Champion team will receive a traveling trophy and glory!

Advantages for You and Chess in Oklahoma:

For new players of all ages, this is a great non-intimidating way to try out tournament play. Your fellow teammates will help you prepare and practice, and you won't have to worry about the confusion of an unfamiliar chess tournament environment — just sign up and show up. The team captain will ease you through the details.

For new tournament directors, this is an easy way to learn the basics of TD work, like scheduling times and locations, and hosting an event with tournament conditions. We will help you get your TD certificate if you don't have one. (Easy!) The training of new TDs is essential to the growth of competitive chess, so this is a great way for you to help the future of chess in Oklahoma.

For chess coaches, the League provides an opportunity to form a team with your own students and enhance their chess education, working together with them as part of a highly focused squad.

For all players, unlike at an open tournament where everyone is a potential opponent, you can go from "lone-wolf" to "wolf-pack," and find strength in numbers as your teammates help you prepare for upcoming matches. It's an innovative twist on the usual tournament experience. You might even spend more of your time at the chess club practicing with team members rather than the usual random chess club stuff.

You also get your money's worth. We expect league play will allow you to get rated games against players near your own rating at an average price per game that is a fraction of what you pay at a typical tournament.

Regardless of how well your team does, you'll have the prestige that comes with helping your team represent your region of the state! Every team member is vital, and each player helps to build camaraderie and the kind of fun and friendly rivalries that competitive chess in Oklahoma has been missing. Plus you get a cool cap that will make other chess players envious!

"You can go from 'lone-wolf' to 'wolf-pack' and find strength in numbers as your teammates help you prepare for upcoming matches."

For Chess in Oklahoma, by providing an easy introduction to tournament play for many hesitant adults or youngsters, the league should inevitably increase the number of players who attend open tournaments in our state, which will spread awareness of our beloved pastime, not to mention the increase in tournament prize funds!

Why "Pioneer"?

Why didn't we just call this the "Oklahoma Chess League?" Well, first of all, we thought that if it proved to be popular enough we might not want to limit it to Oklahoma. Secondly, this concept is completely new territory, and just like the "boomers" and the "sooners" who settled our state, there are new roles for everyone involved: Individuals becoming teams, veterans becoming mentors, casual players becoming competitive players, players becoming organizers. Nothing like this has ever been attempted in the history of chess in Oklahoma, and we're going to need a lot of "pioneer spirit" to pull it off!

Official Rules

The official league rules will be posted online soon, and will detail such things as the scheduling system, the scoring system

for each match, how the Roster Rules will work for balancing teams, substitute players, etc.

Interested? Become a true Pioneer and be a Team Captain!

Example team cap that participants get. Team names can represent just about anything, not limited to cities.

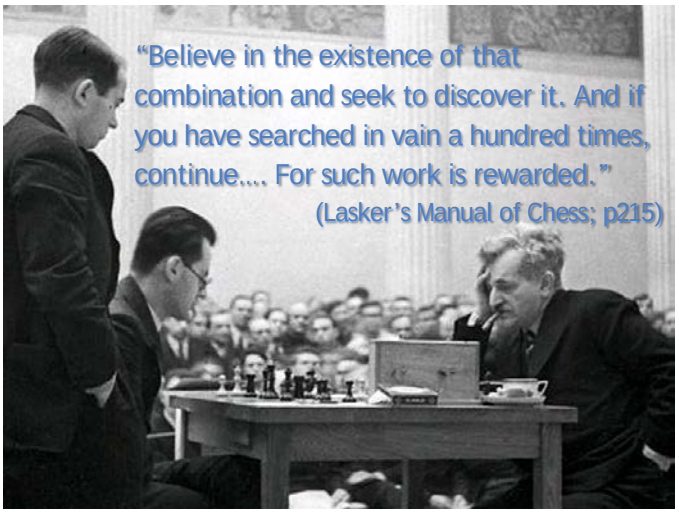
The *pre-season* period in January and February will allow prospective team captains to recruit players and form a team, with help from their division commissioners. We expect it will be easy to make a team. Besides establishing the initial team roster, team captains will be responsible for scheduling the matches with the other teams, and reporting results. You'll have great flexibility with regard to time and place, and support from the league.

What are the costs? The entry fee for each team is $200, which could be afforded in several ways. A team captain could collect from each player at the start of the season, or pay the fee out of their own pocket and charge players in a "pay as you play" fashion to give more substitute players a chance to play. Coaches might even want to pay the entry for a team of their students, and then simply charge each student accordingly as part of a paid tutoring package. A team could even find a generous commercial sponsor to pay the entry to support the team. These proceeds will be used to pay league expenses, including rating fees, the cost of each player's cap or shirt, etc. The league will also organize, at its own expense, the League Championship, and will pay for the venue, traveling trophy, and a stipend for each Division winner to defray travel costs to the championship match. (It isn't known yet how much that amount would be.)

I've been asked to be the first League Commissioner, and I have accepted. My first official duty as Commissioner was to inform all of you about this wonderful opportunity. My second task will be to finalize the complete rules of the league, which will be posted soon, along with a FAQ and the names of the two people who agree to be the Division Commissioners.

If you have any questions, or are interested in forming a team or playing in the league, please contact me or Tom Braunlich.

It is my hope that the Pioneer Chess League will promote chess in such a way that more people in Oklahoma will enter the arena of competitive chess than ever before!


"Believe in the existence of that combination and seek to discover it. And if you have searched in vain a hundred times, continue.... For such work is rewarded."
(Lasker's Manual of Chess; p215)